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# Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk January 17, 2016

North & West edition No 695

TRIBUTE

## Bowie: 1947-2016

We look back at the  
Kentish roots of the iconic  
artistic chameleon



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# Kent on Sunday

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## Exert your influence to better those around you

THE death of David Bowie this week saw the word 'inspirational' in almost every article.

And there is no denying that the impact he had during his 1970s heyday genuinely changed the lives of people he had never met; whether it was due to his fashion sense or the very deliberate blurring of his sexuality.

Certainly if ever you feel like you can relate to someone playing the role of an alien - as was the case with Bowie's Ziggy Stardust creation - it is when you have the hormones and confusion of adolescence pulsing through your veins.

To extend your reach through your efforts to such a global audience is a remarkable achievement. And his passing reminds us all of our own mortality. Indeed, when an idol from our youth falls, they take a little bit of our youthful spirit with them.

But exuding inspiration is not



Editor **Chris Britcher**

something which should be the exclusive reserve of someone with a guitar and a microphone. Or, for that matter, that rare breed of the popular leader of a nation.

Because if David Bowie has taught us anything, it is that with determination and a vision we can rise from the most humble beginnings and make the world listen to our voice.

He certainly wasn't without criticism and made plenty of misjudgements. But no-one is without their frailties and by staying true to himself the reaction to his death

this week is proof of his success.

Regardless of if you can paint, sing, dance or write, we can all inspire those around us; all allow those nearest to us to flourish and seek to progress by using the talents we have and making the most of them. If we succeed we

will live on in their minds. And that is surely a form of immortality.

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## Virgin lands £126m deal to provide health services

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@arcant.co.uk

THE decision to award a £126million community health contract to a private company has been fiercely criticised.

Virgin Care secured the big-money contract for community health services in Dartford, Gravesham, Swanley and Swale following a year-long procurement process carried out by clinical commissioning groups in the area.

It is currently being provided by the Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT).

But Ken Roger, lead governor of the KCHFT, said: "I am unhappy the contract has been awarded to what is a private contractor and would question how the government's intention to build local health services around patients is going to be carried out."

"Foundation trusts have, at their core, public governors elected by the local community to look after their interests in building and monitoring these services which is not the case for private contractors. This change is against all the values of public representation that I stand for."

Lesley Strong, acting chief



**TYCOON:** Virgin boss Richard Branson will see his company take over some key community services

executive of the trust, added: "We are disappointed it has been awarded to another provider. We scored slightly higher than Virgin Care on quality, but not on price. We have one of the lowest running costs of any NHS community provider in the country and the cost of our bid was within the budget set by the CCGs."

"We formed a strong alliance with Age UK, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, Ellenor Hospice Care and primary care

provider DMC to present a plan for the future to deliver good value for money services without reducing the quality of care for our patients."

"Our patients and dedicated staff continue to be our highest priority and during the next three months we will be working with Virgin Care to ensure a smooth transition."

It is expected staff will simply transfer over to the new provider, but union chiefs have expressed concerns over the company's need

to hit financial targets.

The transfer of services, which include community nursing, neuro rehabilitation, speech and language therapy, will take place on April 1.

Richard Comerford, Virgin Care's regional director, said: "We have a strong track record of delivering NHS community health care services which are highly rated by patients. We're very excited to have the opportunity to deliver these services."

## Doctors and trust in the dock over death of mother after C-section

A LANDMARK case which has seen an NHS trust face a charge of corporate manslaughter got under way this week with a jury hearing of the traumatic final moments of the life of primary school teacher Frances Cappuccini.

The 30-year-old, from West Malling, had gone into the Tunbridge Wells Hospital at Pembury in October 2012 to give birth to her second child by caesarean section. But she died just hours after giving birth to her son.

Consultant anaesthetist Errol Cornish, 68, from Bromley, has pleaded not guilty to manslaughter by gross negligence.

Dr Nadeem Azeez, who, the prosecution said, was primarily responsible for the care of Mrs Cappuccini, is not on trial, having left the country. The Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust has pleaded not guilty to its charge.

Mrs Cappuccini lost more than two litres of blood when her son Giacomo

was born. She was operated on but never woke up and died the same day her baby was born.

The jury at Inner London Crown Court this week heard that the tube helping Mrs Cappuccini to breathe after the operation had been removed by 12.30pm but, despite apparent difficulties with her breathing after that point, there were delays in re-intubating her.

The prosecution alleges Cornish and Azeez completed failed in what it said was their "elementary task" to ensure she safely came round from the surgery. It was also claimed both were advised to take extra measures to help her breathe before she died.

The prosecution alleges if one or both doctors are found to be grossly negligent, causing the death of Mrs Cappuccini, the trust can be said to have employed someone they knew or should have known was not suitably qualified or trained for their role.

The trial is expected to last for four weeks.

## Mystery after 29 tall trees are felled in a country park

AN INVESTIGATION is under way after 29 six-metre high trees were hacked down and pinched from a park in Gillingham.

Park rangers have now stepped up surveillance at Riverside Country Park and the police alerted.

Since late November, the council-run park has been targeted on three occasions with silver birch and alder trees being chopped

down and stolen over night in the Motney field area. The trees would cost around £4,500 to replant.

Nigel Holman, at Medway Council, said: "All of these beautiful trees have been badly felled from waist height, breaking nearby fencing, and the offenders only take the thin twigs and branches away with them, leaving the main trunk and branches behind."

## Bowie made secret visit to childhood home in county

DAVID Bowie made a secret farewell visit to the UK shortly after being diagnosed with cancer – returning to the homes in Kent in which he grew up.

The superstar died after an 18 month battle with cancer last Sunday.

He, his wife Iman and daughter Lexi visited his birth place in Brixton before heading to his

former home in Foxgrove Road, Beckenham, and Plaistow Grove in Bromley.

Speaking in an interview last year with his wife Iman, she said: "We went this summer. And no one knew we were there. He took Lexi to Beckenham. They went and took a photo outside the house he grew up in."

• **Special Bowie tribute p19-24.**





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## Gang strategy to be rolled out across Medway

A GOVERNMENT-led programme cracking down on gang crime is to be rolled out in Medway.

It will receive expert advice from the Ending Gangs and Youth Violence programme, which has already helped 43 areas across the country.

More than 100 specialists with frontline gang and youth related violence experience offer tailored support.

The programme comes as the government set out a new policy, Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation.

North division's Chief Superintendent Adrian Futers said: "By understanding best practices developed by a range of other different agencies, which have experience of dealing with gang issues, we can and will prevent such criminality establishing a foothold here."

## Fight begins to raise the funds to fly cancer hit Jamie-Lee, 7, to the USA

By Tom Pyman

A CHARITY appeal has been launched to raise funds for a seven-year-old boy to travel to the US and undergo vital specialist treatment for a rare brain tumour.

Jamie-Lee Dearing, from Aylesford, has endured a life-long battle with illness, and needs crucial proton beam therapy treatment for a rare low-grade glioma of the fourth ventricle – in his brain stem – which causes him to vomit up to 15 times a day.

His tumour is inoperable, and conventional radiation treatment could cause permanent damage to healthy brain tissue, meaning Jamie-Lee's only chance of living a normal life is such treatment across the Atlantic.

As a result, Kids 'n' Cancer – which supports the families of children who suffer from rare forms of cancer in accessing specialist treatment – has stepped in to help raise the funds to fly to Oklahoma.

The funds will go towards flights,



ILL: Jamie-Lee Dearing

accommodation and living costs for his family plus the treatment.

Jamie-Lee's young life has been dogged by illness, including a hip dysplasia – a developmental deformation of the hip joint – and he lives with

Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, meaning he has extremely hyper-mobile joints.

After several visits to Maidstone, the Royal Marsden, in Surrey, and St Thomas' hospitals in London, Jamie-Lee was prescribed steroids, which stop the constant vomiting and, up to now, have provided relief.

However, the steroids are now starting to have serious side-effects, including giving the youngster puffy skin. Long-term, they will also affect his already-weakened bones, leaving his family in a race against time to save their son.

Jodie, Jamie-Lee's mother, said: "Because of the position of the tumour, a biopsy is difficult without causing some degree of damage – including possible loss of important functions such as swallowing."

Mike Hyman, co-founder of Kids 'n' Cancer, said: "We're optimistic that we can raise the money quickly if we need to get Jamie-Lee and his family on a plane to the US."

To support Jamie-Lee's appeal visit [www.justgiving.com/Jamie-lees-lifelong-fight](http://www.justgiving.com/Jamie-lees-lifelong-fight).



VICTIM: Sian Blake

## Inquest opens into death of EastEnders star

AN INQUEST into the deaths of EastEnders actress Sian Blake and her two sons has been opened and adjourned.

Coroner Dr Adela Williams said it would be inappropriate for her to release the three victims' bodies to the family while the murder investigation was ongoing.

Ms Blake's partner, Arthur Simpson-Kent, appeared in court in Ghana on Tuesday as extradition proceedings continue in an attempt to return him to the UK for questioning by murder detectives.

The 48-year-old was in court in Accra after he was arrested in a small town in the west of the African country on Saturday. He is believed to have left the country on December 19.

Ms Blake, 43, and their two young sons, Zachary, eight, and four year-old Amon were reported missing before Christmas.

Their bodies were found buried in the garden of the family home in Erith, on January 5, more than three weeks after they vanished.

Ms Blake played Frankie Pierre in 56 episodes of EastEnders between 1996 and 1997 and had motor neurone disease.

The actress and her sons died from neck and head injuries, post-mortem examinations found.

## Threat to jobs over Argos takeover plans

JOBS could be at risk across Kent if supermarket giant Sainsbury's goes ahead with plans to buy the parent company of catalogue retailer Argos.

In outlining details this week of its £1 billion-plus takeover proposals for the Home Retail Group, it confirmed if it went ahead, it would close around half of the existing Argos branches nationwide.

Kent has more than a dozen Argos stores across the county with branches in Gravesend, Maidstone, Orpington, Sevenoaks, Sittingbourne, Tunbridge Wells, Ashford, Canterbury, Bromley, Chatham, Dartford, Dover, Erith and Folkestone.

The group said it was still "considering its position" but that closure would see the stores taken into its supermarkets as concessions.

The group said it was a "strategically compelling transaction" which would allow it to take on the might of rivals such as Amazon, with more than 100,000 general merchandise products between Argos and Sainsbury's.

## Whitstable children's asylum centre shuts

A RECEPTION centre in Whitstable for unaccompanied asylum seeking children has closed its doors after it was reopened last summer.

Ladesfield was brought back to deal with a surge in arrivals. The former care home housed up to 40 boys aged 16 to 17 for six to eight weeks.

Peter Oakford, cabinet member for specialists children's services at Kent County Council, said: "The use of Ladesfield was always planned as a short term solution, after a quick refurbishment we were able to house young people who needed a place to stay after fleeing their own countries in desperate circumstances."

The site is now expected to be demolished and used as part of a local primary school.

Going forward, Mr Oakford said the council was monitoring figures.

He said: "As the number of young people arriving in Kent has reduced recently we are not looking to open an additional reception centre, although as the summer has shown this can change very quickly so we are keeping a very close watch on the situation."

## Panto smashes box office records again

A RECORD number of people flocked to Canterbury's big-ticket panto this year, with Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs playing to near sell-out audiences every night.

The show, which starred EastEnders' Rita Simons and CBeebies' Mister Maker, Phil Gallagher, pulled in a total of 95,685 during its run.

That equates to an average crowd per performance of 1,153 – making the entire run 99.06 per cent full.

It smashed the previous record, which was for Jack And The Beanstalk which ran over Christmas 2013 and was seen by 90,364 people (92.5 per cent capacity).

Marlowe Theatre director Mark Everett said: "I have to pinch myself every time I see just how many people came – it's an incredible achievement. The atmosphere throughout the six-week run was amazing."

Pantomime producer Paul Hendy, said: "We're thrilled. For many years we have invested in the production values and are passionate about giving the people of the south east a spectacular Christmas pantomime with West End standards."



# Power firms clash over route of pylons across reservoir site

By Chris Britcher

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THE National Grid has been criticised by South East Water for failing to re-route its controversial Richborough Connection pylon route away from land ear-marked for a major new reservoir.

South East Water says despite talks with the power firm to deflect the pylons from the site at Broad Oak, in Canterbury, its calls have been ignored.

The pylons will carry power from Richborough, near Sandwich – which will be receiving electricity pumped in from Belgium via the Nemo Link – to an electricity sub station in Canterbury.

This week National Grid submitted an application to the planning inspectorate. It is the latest stage in a lengthy planning process but means a final decision could be made in around a year.

National Grid insists it has made some changes to its plans. These include moving the proposed route north of existing lines in the Ash Level to minimise the impact on wildlife.

The route has also been moved around the campsite at Nethergong, near Canterbury, as a result of protected species being identified through surveys. UK Power Networks' existing overhead line would still be removed as part of the scheme.



**IMPACT:** Opposition includes local MPs and residents

But South East Water says it has overlooked its concerns.

Lee Dance, head of water resources, said: "We do have some concerns the alignment of pylons through the proposed route corridor could put at risk our ability to deliver a reservoir at Broad Oak."

"As a result we have made a number of suggestions to National Grid... unfortunately it seems these suggestions have not been fully reflected in both the pre-consultation documentation and this current develop-

ment consent order submission."

Steve Self, project manager at National Grid, said: "We believe our final proposal strikes the right balance between everything we've been told, the planning and environmental guidelines we have to follow and the engineering needed to build the connection."

As of Friday, the planning inspectorate has 28 days to decide if the application has met the right standard to proceed to examination.

## Sheppey Crossing to re-open this week

THE Sheppey Crossing is expected to re-open this week after being shut for several days due to a burst water main.

The main link to the island has been shut since Tuesday to repair the main and to then carry out vital safety checks.

Highways England will carry out a final assessment to ensure it is safe before re-opening. Traffic has been diverted via the Sheppey Way.

## Cold snap prompts pharmacy flu jab call

THE NHS is urging people across Kent and Medway to get vaccinated against flu at their local pharmacy, under a new scheme introduced this winter.

With temperatures falling, those who are vulnerable or with health conditions can pop into pharmacists and get the jab with no appointment.

## Mote Park charges

CAR parking charges in Mote Park will come into force from February 1 as councillors attempt to plug gaps left by funding cuts.

The charges start at 10am each day and will be £1 for six hours or £12 for more than six.

It will remain free for morning dog walkers and those who go jogging in the park. Residents can get an annual pass for £40.

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# RSPCA warning after spate of sick horses found dumped

RSPCA officers say they have been called out to a spate of "extremely distressing" cases of dead or dying horses, dumped around the county.

The charity says that since November 15, it has been called out to 21 incidents where they found 25 horses which were either dead, dying or in poor condition.

Some 14 of the horses were dead on arrival; nine had to be put to sleep due to their condition; and only two survived and are recovering. Incidents range from Ashford to Sevenoaks.

Inspector Caroline Doe said: "It is extremely shocking and distressing and needs to stop.

"These horses appear to have been transported in vans or pick-up trucks to quiet locations where they are callously dumped, some even while they are still just alive which



is quite simply barbaric.

"This is pushing our inspectors to their limits and putting a strain on resources. We have finite resources and must always act within the law.

"We are urging the public in Kent to be vigilant."

Anyone with concerns over horse welfare or information about recent incidents should contact the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999.

## Thames crossing plans in fresh round of criticism

COUNTRYSIDE campaigners are calling for fresh thinking over plans for a proposed lower Thames crossing to provide a "wider, more resilient solution" to the congested area's transport issues.

The government is currently considering two options – one for a new crossing to be built close to the existing Dartford bridge and tunnels, the other east of Gravesend.

A decision is expected later this year to ease the bottleneck at Dartford going into Essex, with Gravesend the more likely choice.

Now the Kent and Essex branches of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) have produced a policy statement on the proposals.

It says both options would

have "major negative environmental impacts".

The policy statement reads: "The Dartford option would be a great local burden even if improved operation could alleviate pollution and congestion.

"The Tilbury/Shorne route would cut a whole new motorway further east, destroying nationally important landscapes, wildlife sites, national heritage and the character of iconic settlements such as Orsett in Essex, Chalk in Kent, and villages and landscape that are a vital part of the rural and tourist economy.

"We need a wider, more resilient solution, including investment in ports north of the Thames to disperse the cross Channel movement of freight."

## College's £8.2m works

BUILDING work on an £8.2 million project at Canterbury College has been completed.

Work includes creating a sports centre, business and arts blocks.

The project was funded in part by the Skills Funding Agency and carried out by construction firm Morgan Sindall.

## KCC phone scam warning

KENT County Council has warned of scam phone calls claiming to be from the authority and ringing about a recent accident.

It says it does not make such calls and that anyone receiving a call should not provide any contact information but contact trading standards officers.

## Rylance is Oscar hopeful

ACTOR Mark Rylance has been nominated for an Academy Award for his performance in Steven Spielberg's Bridge of Spies.

The Ashford-born actor, renowned as one of the greatest Shakespearean actors, is in the running for an Oscar in the best supporting actor category.

## Tune in for Deal Radio

DEAL is set for a new radio station as it prepares for a special launch event at the Astor Theatre on January 24.

Programmes will be designed for listeners in the town and surrounding communities. The event will feature a host of Kent-based bands performing.



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## Top Three Stories



### 1. Medway tree thief

29 trees have been felled

### 2. Bottle throwers jailed

Two men threw items at cars from a bridge

### 3. Weekend water work

Lanes to be narrowed by South East Water

## The Essential Guide:



### ...to the Dartford Crossing

Everything you need to know about the Dart Charge.



**FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY:** Fans across the county paid tribute to former Beckenham resident David Bowie, who died of cancer this week at the age of 69.

## Missed last week's...?

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## Top Three Blogs



### 1. Celebrity deaths

Reminding us all of our own mortality

### 2. Christmas pudding

Why is it still in the fridge in January?

### 3. Too reliant on phones

Do we need to learn to live without them?

## Results of the KoS Online Poll

### Where should there be a David Bowie monument?

- 1 Brixton - 40%
- 2 Beckenham - 30%
- 3 New York - 20%
- 4 There shouldn't be one - 10%



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# Has Charley got The Voice to impress judges?

By Molly Kersey-Law  
molly.kersey-law@archant.co.uk

**M**ILLIONS of viewers got behind Kent's very own Charley Blue on Saturday night as she attempted to impress the judges of the BBC's popular talent show The Voice.

The series, which returned last weekend for a final season on the channel – it has been poached by ITV for next year – features hopefuls performing in front of the judges, all of whom listen to the performance with their backs turned so their decision is based purely on the power of their voice.

Only if a judge opts to work with an act can their chair swivel round.

This year's judging panel includes Boy George, Paloma Faith, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson.

And this weekend quirky Miss Blue – real name Charlotte Andrew – from Speldhurst, took to the stage to combine rap, singing and playing the violin – an instrument she calls Blue.

"It was so surreal," she told KoS.

"I actually quite liked the fact they have their backs to you because you feel like you're working hard for them to turn round. And the audience was amazing.

"I think they are told they have to be quiet when you walk on to the stage, but when I was performing I felt like I had the audience on my side.

"I thought I would be looking at the chairs the whole time just thinking 'please turn round', but I actually just enjoyed the performance."

The show was filmed in Manchester, and her mum, dad, sister and friends from university were waiting in the wings to cheer her on.

"You don't actually see your family and friends on the day," she explains, "which I didn't realise. I thought I'd be waiting with them and then get called up but they are in completely different holding areas," she said.



"You wait in what's known as the green room with all the other acts.

"They tell you that you could be on at any time. I was waiting quite a while but I liked having time to gather my thoughts. They provided food and stuff but for the first time in my life I actually wasn't hungry."

Her chosen song was Roll Over Beethoven – the Chuck Berry classic that has been covered by everyone from the Beatles to Iron Maiden and ELO.

"It features the violin quite heavily and shows a different range," Miss Blue explains. "I have performed it a lot and wanted to do something I was comfortable with.

"It's quite a surprise, you think I am singing all the way through and then I actually get into this rap which I wrote."

The former Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School pupil said having her trusty violin with her helped.

"I felt like I had a sidekick there with me with Blue there. I actually got quite emotional when Marvin Humes [former JLS star, now co-presenter on The Voice] asked me how I felt about Blue."

So just what were the judges like?

"It's great because even if you don't get through you still get some advice from these four amazing people in the music industry," she said.

"Ricky was saying 'you have obviously done quite a lot of gigs', which was a real compliment.

"Ricky and Paloma are actually really good friends I think, they said 'we did a rap together' and started rapping, and Will.i.am was on the beatbox and I tried to get involved somehow, but I was so nervous: I was a bit gobsmacked.

"Boy George said that I don't look how I sound. I'm supposed to be a rapper and I was dressed like I was going to the prom.

"Will said that he liked my tone and Paloma said 'you're lovely'."

The singer has a great deal of affection for Speldhurst and has performed around the county in venues including the Grey Lady in Tunbridge Wells.

And why the stage name?

"I think my mum actually came up with the name," she said.

"I thought it sounded quite nice. Charlotte Andrew is so boring. Charley Blue is not a name that not many people have."

Without wishing to spoil the result of the audition, you can watch The Voice on catch-up services via the BBC iPlayer.



**HIT:** Charley and Blue put a twist on a classic to impress judges Boy George and Will.i.am

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# 'Bad Grandpas' and £14m heist

A 76-year-old career criminal and associate of M25 road rage killer Kenneth Noye from Dartford is to be sentenced at end of March for his role in £14m safe deposit box raid...

**Nina Massey**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

**D**ARTFORD pensioner Brian Reader will be sentenced for his role as one of the ringleaders in the £14 million Hatton Garden raid at the end of March.

The 76-year-old – the oldest of the group – had already pleaded guilty to his role prior to the conclusion of a court case in London this week.

The used car salesman, a former associate of the notorious M25 road rage killer Kenneth Noye, had previously served time for his role in the £26m Brink's-Mat gold bullion robbery in 1983.

Three men were found guilty of being involved in the Hatton Garden raid, which took place over the Easter weekend last year and is believed to be the biggest burglary in British history.

Carl Wood, 58, and William Lincoln, 60, were convicted of conspiracy to commit burglary and conspiracy to conceal, convert or transfer criminal property, while plumber Hugh Doyle, 48, was found guilty of concealing, converting or transferring criminal property between January 1 and May 19 last year.

They were members of the gang, including five others, who ransacked 73 boxes at Hatton Garden Safety Deposit after using a drill to bore a hole into the vault wall.

Reader had travelled to conduct the raid by bus using a pensioner's freedom pass.

Valuables worth up to £14m, including gold, diamonds and sapphires, were taken, but only a third have been recovered.

Ringleaders John "Kenny" Collins, 75, Daniel Jones, 60 and Terry Perkins, 67, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary last September.



They, plus Reader, will be sentenced along with Wood, Lincoln and Doyle by Judge Christopher Kinch QC on March 7.

Robinson and Walters are due to be sentenced on March 31.

Detectives are still hunting a mystery key suspect amid fears he could have fled abroad.

The Metropolitan Police's Flying Squad issued an urgent public appeal for help in tracing the thief, known only as 'Basil', and the missing two thirds of the £14m loot.

It comes after officers have so far been unable to identify Basil, prompting fears he could have left the UK unchecked.

The key player let his co-conspirators into the building by opening the fire escape from inside, is thought to have disabled the alarm and also climbed through the hole in the vault wall, along with another man, to get at the deposit boxes.

Head of the Flying Squad, Detective

Superintendent Craig Turner, said: "One man who has become known as 'Basil' is still wanted in connection with the burglary.

"We would ask anyone who has information as to the identity of 'Basil' or the whereabouts of the outstanding jewellery to contact police.

"We are offering a reward of up to £20,000 for information leading to his arrest and conviction and the recovery of the outstanding property."

The Daily Mirror quoted an "underworld source" as saying: "He's a clever kid and the police won't have much on him, he's too good for that. He will have hidden his whack somewhere secure in the UK and gone on his toes."

The paper said Basil, reportedly nicknamed 'The Ghost', is from the south east, is around 6ft, slightly built and in his mid-50s. He is believed to have worn a ginger wig over greying brown hair during the raid, it adds.



**RINGLEADERS:** From left, John Collins, Daniel Jones, Terry Perkins and Brian Reader. Reader was referred to as the 'master' and the 'guvnor' and was in the Kenneth Noye's garden when police officer John Fordham was stabbed in 1983. Reader used an Oyster card at Easter to get to buses to the scene of the Hatton Garden burglary



## BURGLARY:

The thieves got away with some £14m in gold, gems and cash from their Easter weekend activities – £10m of which is still missing with mystery man Basil...



## 'BAD GRANDPAS'

IT was the biggest burglary in British history, carried out by experienced criminals, but one lawyer said parts of it were worthy of a film called Bad Grandpas.

The Hatton Garden Safe Deposit raid saw valuables including gold, diamonds and sapphires worth up to £14m stolen when the gang of ageing burglars drilled their way into a vault at the heart of London's jewellery quarter.

In the planning for at least three years, the details of the job were worked out in pubs and in face-to-face meetings.

The characters, although experienced, were now suffering for their years, but covert audio recordings captured them reminiscing about their pasts and boasting about what they thought was a successful job.

Brian Reader, 76, used an Oyster Card Freedom Pass, belonging to someone else, get to Hatton Garden on the night of April 2.

Diabetic Terry Perkins, 75, made sure he had enough insulin with him to last for three days, and John Collins is said to have fallen asleep while acting as lookout.

However, their ailments did not stop them from planning and taking part. What did almost stop them was a 4ft thick concrete wall.

Armed with holdalls full of tools and drilling equipment, Reader, Perkins, Danny Jones, mystery man Basil and a man said to be Carl Wood entered the 88-90 Hatton Garden Safe Deposit some time after 9.30pm on April 2.

They made their way to the basement after breaching the lift shaft and gained access to the

area outside the vault.

But the team found the equipment they had with them was inadequate and they had to leave the vault empty-handed at around 8am on Good Friday, April 3.

The raid came close to being foiled before the gang had a chance to return when Lionel Wiffen – a jeweller whose office door is accessed from the courtyard – returned to the premises at 8pm on April 4.

After finding the fire escape unlocked and ajar, he became worried and inspected the basement, but upon finding it bolted from the inside, did not raise the alarm.

Mr Wiffen escaped a second close encounter with the raiders when he returned to his office on Easter Sunday – the thieves having left with their spoils less than an hour earlier.

Having made their getaway, the gang thought they had managed to pull off a the largest burglary "in history".

Unaware that Collins's and Perkins's cars had been bugged, Jones, Perkins and Collins were recorded speaking animatedly about the raid and about each other.

On May 15, Perkins suggests it was good that the police thought the raid was an inside job. He goes on to brag: "No, they can't work that out. That is the biggest robbery that could have ever, ever been."

In his closing speech, Nick Corsellis, defending Carl Wood, acknowledged the burglary had the potential to make it to the big screen. He said: "You can imagine the film titles. Bad Grandpas? The Enfield Expendables?"





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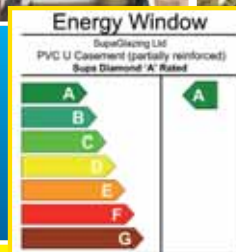
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# Legal threat of grammar challenge is removed

Work can now get under way to build an annexe of Tonbridge's Weald of Kent in Sevenoaks. **Chris Britcher** reports...

**C**AMPAIGNERS who championed plans for a grammar annexe at Sevenoaks have welcomed news a group opposed to the selective school system have abandoned plans for a judicial review.

But an angry war of words has erupted between the grammar supporters and a new organisation set up in the county to oppose the selective system.

There was a three-month limit on when a legal challenge could be mounted into the decision – and that expired on Wednesday.

It was widely expected the group

Comprehensive Future – a national organisation which opposes the use of the 11-plus – would fight the plans.

But at the start of the week it confirmed it would not mount a challenge – blaming a lack of information from the bodies involved in the project.

And that means work can now get under way on transforming the site of the former Wilderness School – a site it will share with the Trinity Free School.

The school will be a girls-only annexe of girls' grammar the Weald of Kent in Tonbridge, with students being split across the two sites.

It is expected it will welcome four

forms of students when it opens its doors in September 2017, accommodating pupils from Sevenoaks and the surrounding villages.

Campaigners have long fought for the school, saying it is the only major town in Kent not to have a grammar, forcing pupils to travel 10 miles into Tonbridge.

Given the nod by the government at the end of last year, it sparked a nationwide debate about the role of grammars and appeared to open the door to more grammar expansion.

Tony Blair's Labour government banned the opening of any new selectives in 2002.

The key issue for Sevenoaks is

claims it will be a new school rather than a genuine 'annexe' to an existing one.

But while education minister Nicky Morgan (pictured below, right) has been quick to deny it will open the floodgates, the annexe proposal in west Kent will be seen as something a test case and is being closely monitored.



**FUTURE:** Artist's impression of how the new annexe will look once work is complete on the site of the former Wilderness School in Sevenoaks.



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In a statement, Comprehensive Future said: "In the past few months, Comprehensive Future has requested information from the government, Kent County Council and the school in order to test the legal basis of this claim.

"Information has often not been forthcoming or has been unaccountably delayed. Those plans that CF has been allowed to see appear to be highly impracticable and are unlikely to be sustained over the long term but the government has forbidden us to discuss these publicly.

"The absence of official openness throughout this process has made it almost impossible for us to be certain of legally establishing, at this stage, that this is indeed a new school.

"CF intends to keep a close eye on the development of the so called annex. In particular, we will be scrutinising details of the school's plans when published in the funding agreement.

"We believe we are much more likely to win any legal argument when all the information pertaining to the day-to-day running of the school is out in the open.

"There now needs to be robust public discussion about whether Sevenoaks really is an annex of an existing school or whether the current plans are, as we believe, a concerted and blatantly political attempt to get round the law.

Andrew Shilling, of the Sevenoaks Grammar School Campaign, said: "This is excellent news because the threat of a legal challenge has now been permanently lifted.

"The Sevenoaks grammar annexe for girls can now be built without further delay. The builders are now on site and so the annexe can be expected to open its doors

in September 2017.

"Whilst the news is most welcome, excluding boys from the Sevenoaks grammar annexe is very unfortunate. In recent years Sevenoaks boys have found it harder to access grammar school places than Sevenoaks girls, and we hope that a boys' grammar school will now come forward to sponsor a boys' annexe.

"Comprehensive Future can attempt to blame their humiliating retreat on the government blocking access to information on the Sevenoaks annexe, but I suspect the real reason is that, due to the very high level of support by Sevenoaks parents for the annexe, they were unable to find a single local parent willing to back their legal challenge, and without any local support any judicial review would inevitably fail.

"In fact it appears that the only Kent parent Comprehensive Future could find to back their unpopular campaign was the founder of the newly formed Kent Education Network who lives in Whitstable..

"The grammar annexe in Sevenoaks is not the new school that this privileged north London clique allege because, quite simply, if it was then it would admit Sevenoaks boys who also desperately need local grammar places, and not just girls. This empty threat of a legal challenge was therefore in my view based on a dodgy dossier of nonsense, and so was always doomed to failure."

The Kent Education Network, which describes itself as a think tank of parents, teachers, governors and other education professionals which is against the 11-plus, said the annexe was "bound to fail".

Joanne Bartley of the network, said: "The plan for the annexe envisages that the two sites – in Tonbridge and

Sevenoaks – will be run as one school.

"We believe this will prove expensive and impractical and will not solve the perceived problem of girls needing to travel almost ten miles a day each way to school.

"It is obvious that huge costs would be incurred in staff travel and that many more staff members would be required for the school to provide a full teaching programme. The only way to tackle this problem would be for the school to be divided horizontally ie that senior pupils attend one location while juniors are based at the other.

"This would have two effects; such an arrangement could not be described as one school; and, further, at least half of the combined school cohorts would need to make the ten mile journey twice a day. This would contradict the intended point of the annexe plan – which is that these journeys should be ended. It would also mean that many children from the Tonbridge area would make these journeys for the first time.

"For all these reasons, we believe that the annexe will fail in its expressed aims."

Education consultant Peter Read said the reason the challenge was not sustainable was simple.

He told us: "This is just a spoiler – designed, in my opinion, to create further uncertainty and to stop work getting under way on the site.

"But this proposal goes by the rules. Previous efforts were rejected because they didn't. This does as far as I can see."

Sevenoaks Tory MP Michael Fallon said: "It would have been outrageous for politically motivated national campaigners to attempt to block the expansion of a successful school backed by the people of Sevenoaks and KCC."

#### EDUCATION MINISTER:

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# Comic's shock at triple heart op

By Eleanor Bley Griffiths

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

**T**UNBRIDGE Wells comic Bob Mortimer was in such danger before his triple heart bypass surgery that he was granted special permission to marry just hours before the procedure.

The comedian, who is one half of double act Reeves and Mortimer, was told last autumn that his arteries were 95 per cent blocked.

He wed his partner of 22 years Lisa Matthews on the morning of the operation. The couple had previously lived in Ashford before moving to the west of the county.

He said: "I found out on the Thursday that I needed surgery, so I made a will on the Friday.

"I found out I couldn't get married to Lisa because you have to give 21 days' notice or something.

"My consultant said I was incredibly ill, so the registrar in London gave me permission to get married on the Monday. So I got married at 9.30am on the Monday, and went to hospital at 10am to have my operation."

The only guests at the wedding were the couple's two children, Harry and Tom, so Mortimer's comedy partner Vic Reeves did not get a chance to be his best man.

After the operation, the initial leg of the comedy duo's first tour since 1995 was cancelled so Mortimer could recuperate.

But now the rest of the tour, 25 Years Of Reeves & Mortimer: The Poignant Moments, is set to go ahead from January 30.

Mortimer, 56, said: "I feel fine. We're doing a little warm-up show on Saturday. If I don't drop we'll be fine."

He added: "I've just redone all my tests and they said if I was a builder or a scaffolder I would be absolutely fine to do it. And we don't do anything like heavy labour in the show."

But he does still have to be careful with his diet and heart rate, and will have to monitor his health on stage.

He said: "I've got a thing that gives me a constant reading of my heart rate. If it gets over that I'll just have to walk off."

The news that he was gravely ill came "completely out of the blue", Mortimer said.

He went to the doctor with a suspected chest infection, but was advised to have his heart checked out. Tests revealed the extent of the problem.

He said: "It came completely out of the blue. It isn't something that causes you any pain until it's done. I think my arteries were 95 per cent blocked. It's hard to believe, because I felt fine.

"I thought, because I'm going on tour, and I've got a bit of a chest infection, I'd better go and see the doctor."

On his 25 years of performing with Reeves, Mortimer said: "First and foremost this is probably a friendship really and this is a way of acting it out."

With characters from across their comedy career expected to make an



**TOUR:** Bob Mortimer, right, with long-time comedy partner Vic Reeves. They celebrate 25 years together with a string of shows starting at the end of this month and ending in February.



on-stage appearance, Mortimer labelled it a "nostalgia tour".

On their decision to go on tour for the first time since 1995's Weathercock 1495, Reeves said: "We've been

thinking about it for some time because we're quite happy making films. But we thought it's about time."

The tour starts in Leeds on January 30 and finishes in London on February 16.



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# Icon's global glory which started right here in Kent

After his death was announced on Monday the world has paid tribute to David Bowie. But his roots are very much in this county. We look at how he started on the road to superstardom...

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

**A**S THE world mourned the loss of the iconic and profoundly influential David Bowie this week, the county paid a very special tribute to a performer who grew up here before springboarding onto global fame.

The Kentish roots of the performer run deep, with his mother born and bred in the county and her meeting with his father taking place, so legend has it, in her home town cinema.

And when he embarked on his road to success, it was the live venues of Kent in which he cut his teeth.

He started life as David Jones.

His mother, Margaret 'Peggy' Burns, was born in Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, in 1913, and met David's father, Haywood 'John' Jones, in the cafe of the Ritz cinema in the spa town, where she worked as an usherette.

That building was only demolished last year after closing as a cinema in 2000 and standing empty for years.

They married and lived in Brixton where, in 1947, David was born. They moved to Bromley in 1953.

The family would live there until 1965, with the young David attending Burnt Ash Junior school, before he failed his 11-plus and went to Bromley Technical College.

It was here that his musical career and love of performance began, with junior school providing a chance for him to join the choir and music and dance classes.

As a teenager, he became entranced by American stars like Elvis Presley, Fats Domino and Little Richard after listening to singles of his father's.

At the age of 15 he formed his first band. The Konrads performed locally,

with shows in the likes of Bromley, Chislehurst, Biggin Hill, Orpington and West Wickham, before he announced he was leaving school to become a pop star.

He then had a short-lived career with the King Bees, before he joined Maidstone group the Manish Boys, where he admitted he dreamed of emulating Dartford rocker Mick Jagger.

He lived in the county town, Maidstone, for a short while, but in an interview with a fansite he remembered receiving a beating as he walked down the street.

He said: "It was just this big Herbert. He knocked me down on the pavement and when I fell down, he proceeded to kick me for no reason that I can fathom to this day.

"I haven't got many good memories of Maidstone."

With an increasing desire to make it big, he then joined The Lower Third, a Margate band which had a regular slot in a Cliftonville hotel, before he moved on to front The Buzz and then Riot Squad, ditching his surname in the mid-60s to replace it with Bowie; after the American frontiersman.

He had feared Davie Jones was too similar to Davy Jones of the Monkees.

By 1969, he released Space Oddity to coincide with the Moon landings, and went from performing in Beckenham folk clubs to enjoying his first major commercial hit.

The rest, as they say, is history. He performed in Kent only once more; in Chatham for Ziggy Stardust's farewell tour of 1973 – an album considered his seminal work and for which he will surely be most remembered.

Jason Dorman runs The Forum in Tunbridge Wells – a hugely popular live music venue on the Common.

He told us: "His passing is dreadful news, especially given his obvious connections with Tunbridge Wells.



**RIP:** Born David Jones in Brixton, he was brought up in Beckenham and was part of the influential Arts Lab movement

"His mum worked at the old cinema and that's where his parents met. There was even talk that was where David was conceived before the family moved to south east London.

"So there has always been a bit of a claim for David Bowie in the town.

"I didn't know he was so ill. He always controlled carefully his output which clearly includes his illness.

"His music has been very dark recently and looking back over the past few singles, it seems he made those clearly in the knowledge of what was going on.

"It is a sad, but it is also a chance to celebrate his genius. He influenced so many people during his career which has spanned so many decades."

Tunbridge Wells-based celebrity photographer Pat Pope shot Bowie a couple of times.

He said: "In 1997 I realised all that I had been secretly hoping for since I was five. I met, talked to and photographed my hero. As two of my closest

friends who were on hand will recall, I was terrified. He was the most charming, funny and generous pop star I've ever met.

"I knew the day would come when he died, but I was not prepared."

Veteran Radio Kent presenter Dave Cash used to work at Capital Radio in London and met Bowie several times there.

But it was in 1969 that the pair hit it off in a Brixton club.

At his home, Mr Cash told us: "I was doing a gig with Geno Washington at the Ram Jam Club. Geno was in the Ram Jam Band.

"I was doing a soul night and I was the token white guy. It was great fun, and one day David Bowie showed up. He was at the front of the stage and we recognised who it was and introduced ourselves. I asked him what made him go to this club, and he just answered 'research'. He was always after new influences.

"He said 'I'd heard about you guys

and wanted to know what it's like'. We had some cups of coffee backstage and chatted for ages."

Mr Cash said Bowie was incredible because he was able to stay up to date over the decades by re-inventing himself and his music persona over and over, and ensuring he was able to influence generations with his music.

He said: "But to have Bowie show up at one of my live gigs was, like, 'wow'.

"He was one of the very true artists. There are manufactured pop groups whose success can be put down to clever producers, or those with a sound like Abba. But David Bowie was an artist capable of all kinds of things.

"I loved the way he explained things years later. In his lyrics and poetry, he explained things.

"One of his album covers shows him in a dress. At the time, this was extraordinary. He really was a one of a kind who will be tragically missed."

## DAVID BOWIE'S KENT SHOWS

**1962:**

**AS The Konrads**

BROMLEY Technical High School; Chislehurst Caves

**1963:**

**AS The Konrads**

SHOWS in Biggin Hill, Orpington, West Wickham

**AS The Hooker Brothers**

BROMLEY Club, Bromley

**1964:**

**AS the Manish Boys**

STAR Club, Maidstone  
GOOD Companions Club, Rochester  
WYE College, nr Ashford  
ASTOR Theatre, Deal  
PEMBROKE Club, Chatham

SELLINDGE

**AS Davie Jones and the Manish Boys**

ASTOR Theatre, Deal  
INVICTA Ballroom, Chatham  
MEDWAY County Youth Club  
JUSTIN Hall, West Wickham  
ROYAL Star Hotel, Maidstone  
CORN Exchange, Maidstone

**1965:**

**AS Davie Jones and the Manish Boys**

ROYAL Star Hotel, Maidstone  
BROMLEY Club, Bromley

**AS The Lower Third**

THE Lower Third  
WORKING Men's Club, Minster  
SHEERNESS & District MCC  
Cons Club  
GRAND Hotel, New Romney

CLIFTONVILLE Hall, Margate  
(band perform a THURSDAY night residency)

**1966:**

**AS David Bowie & The Buzz**

PLEASURAMA, Coronation  
Ballroom, Ramsgate

**1969:**

**AS David Bowie**

LIBRARY Gardens, Bromley  
DOWNHAM Folk Club, Bromley  
GENERAL Gordon, Gravesend  
AURORA Hotel, Gillingham

**1973**

**ON the Aladdin Sane tour, as Ziggy**

**Stardust**

CENTRAL Hall, Chatham



# Heart scare took him off the big stage

Speculation over the performer's health had circulated for years after he ducked out of the spotlight

**D**ESPITE releasing two albums in three years – including *Blackstar*, just two days before his death – rumours about David Bowie's health have plagued the singer since he bowed out of the spotlight following a heart attack in 2004.

Bowie collapsed backstage at a gig in Schessel, Germany, and was forced to undergo emergency surgery on a blocked coronary artery.

He made very few public appearances since then, with his final live performance taking place nearly a

decade ago, when he joined Alicia Keys on stage at the Black Ball fundraiser at New York's Hammersmith Ballroom for a rendition of *Changes* in 2006.

The Heroes singer resurfaced in April 2009 to attend the premiere of his son Duncan Jones's film *Moon* in New York, and at the CFDA Fashion Awards in June 2010 alongside second wife Iman, before dropping back out of the public eye until the release of *The Next Day* in 2013 – his first original album in 10 years.

Scrutiny of his health intensified at that time, with long-time producer

**RECLUSIVE:** David Bowie with his wife Iman at a fashion show in New York and (right), fans leave tributes at a mural on a wall in Brixton – where the singer was born. All pictures: PA



Tony Visconti denying reports the singer was suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

"He is as sharp as a tack. He is sharper than ever. This boy has not lost a single brain cell," Visconti told the *Sunday Telegraph*.

"People thought he was dying. He's not dying any time soon, let me tell you. He couldn't have done two years' work if he was a sick man. He's very healthy, he's very fit. He had the heart operation (in 2004) and that's it. He's long since recovered from that," Visconti added.

His musical prowess undiminished, Bowie reclaimed his Best Male Solo Brit award in 2014 for the come-

back album, 30 years after he first secured the accolade.

He was noticeably absent at the ceremony but still managed to steal the show when he sent Kate Moss on stage to collect his award, wearing an original Ziggy Stardust stage outfit from 1972.

Bowie cut a shadow of his former flamboyant self when he made his final public appearance at the premiere of his musical *Lazarus* at the Theatre Workshop in New York on December 12 last year.

It was unknown at the time that the star was already coming to the end of his private 18-month battle with liver cancer. In a statement is-

sued following his death, Tony Visconti confirmed Bowie's final album was a deliberate farewell to his fans.

He said: "He always did what he wanted to do. And he wanted to do it his way and he wanted to do it the best way. His death was no different from his life – a work of art."

"He made *Blackstar* for us, his parting gift. I knew for a year this was the way it would be. I wasn't, however, prepared for it. He was an extraordinary man, full of love and life. He will always be with us. For now, it is appropriate to cry."

It is understood David Bowie's body was cremated shortly after his death. No service is planned.

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# A portrait of a life less ordinary

Academic **Shane Blackman** writes for KoS on the profound impact of David Bowie's successful career

**D**AVID Bowie's contribution to British society was enormous; he was a cultural giver and not a taker.

True, he did take influences from many people and many genres to make his own, but that is what an artist does. He has touched so many people through so many forms of entertainment, not just music but also film, theatre, poetry and art; for both adults and children.

He has not been without his demons and that was clear on the Cracked Actor documentary [BBC production filmed in 1974 during a period when Bowie was addicted to cocaine] where he was clearly close to the edge of reason. But he saved people from

themselves too, including Iggy Pop and Lou Reed. This is Bowie's real human side. Funny that we see Bowie as so human when in fact he spent much time suggesting that he was from another world as Brain Eno remarked.

His influence has shaped and formed the biog-

raphy of so many people's lives over decades. Many people followed him from the Space Oddity (1969) period right up to Blackstar (2016), which is all about critically assessing demise at a personal level.

However, his ever-changing persona meant he always stayed in tune with what was going on in the world. Some people would have dropped out from some identities he created and more joined as the years went by, but he was always at the forefront of creative innovation. He asked you to respond to his art. This makes him a personal artist and part of people's subjectivity.

Not everyone, but many a few, have travelled with him through his style and sexuality and his ability to be able to write a beautiful melody or a series of song lyrics which have stayed with people.

He is a star and an icon, but was so much closer to the fans than many thought. Sometimes people have fallen out with him, but went back to him; such was his power of creative force.

Others musical artists for example the Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin or Queen developed their own unique sound at the time of their launch and stayed true to that authentic sound throughout their careers. But Bowie changed and he changed regularly. To do that and maintain his fan base shows the power of his work, but also the level of

respect; he wanted fans to change with him. He changed his musical genre and then developed it to engage with new generations.

He created music to dance to, but at the same time he was making music for people to think with for example Hunky Dory (1971).

You can apply this approach to his films. It wasn't just for entertainment or even money, for example The Man Who Fell to Earth (1976) was made to disrupt thinking. Even his performance in Labyrinth (1986) was somewhat mystical. He did the introduction to The Snowman (1982) video, which was done remarkably straight, but because it is him, it comes across as a powerful piece for the imagination as he pulls the scarf gained from the Snowman from his pocket. It is also so he can pick up new generations through his journey.

In interviews, he comes across as a very special person with an enormous depth and sensitivity no matter what he is doing. He speaks as someone who is genuinely interested in what he is doing. He is not just doing it for the money, although he has made millions from it. For people, Bowie comes across as ordinary - happy to laugh and joke. He smiled a lot. There is a strange duality of being very special and very ordinary.

■ Shane Blackman, pictured left, is professor of cultural studies in the school of media, art and design at Canterbury Christ Church University.



**LEGACY:** By influencing so many generations his impact will last for decades to come



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# Experimenting with the Arts Lab

Mary Finnigan knew a 22-year-old Bowie well and helped him co-found an outlet for his creative urge

**M**ARY Finnigan was in considerable demand this week. As the former love and landlady of David Bowie, she certainly was closer than most to the enigmatic artist.

And having released a book discussing their time together – which hit the shelves only a week ago – the media were quick to call on her in the wake of his passing.

But it is the insight she can provide into the star's early career – as his creativity started to spill out and he edged ever closer to making the elusive commercial breakthrough he craved – that is so fascinating.

Having grown up in Bromley and Beckenham, when the borough was still very much part of Kent, Bowie was beginning to make waves and when he co-founded the Beckenham Arts Lab – an alternative arts centre inspired by the pioneering arts lab in Drury Lane.

It was a place Bowie was familiar with. He had rehearsed and even practised mime at the London facility and was keen to bring it closer to home.

Ms Finnigan witnessed its creation first hand.

"David lived with me from April to September 1969," she says. "He was 22 at the time and we were lovers for a short while. I saw him as a talented musician and a creative individual.

"You could see he had talent as a singer songwriter, and was quite different from the run of the mill folk singer. What was most exciting for all of us, including David, was the sense of community.

"We first set up a folk club at the Three Tuns pub in Beckenham [today there is a plaque marking its significance]. We turned a dingy backroom into a psychedelic happening; that was my contribution. David provided the music, and we'd play every Sunday.

"At the time arts labs were setting up all over London, and David suggested we turn our club into an arts lab, which was met with great support

"Despite the stereotypes around us being hippies, people of all ages were interested in seeing our performances.

"We were so naïve and just wanted everyone to love us, and people of all ages went with that."

One of its first major projects was



**YOUNG:** Bowie on stage at the free festival above left, and at the Beckenham Arts Lab stage at the Three Tuns pub above right. Far right, Bowie and friends chat at the recreation ground in Beckenham

staging a free festival at the Croydon Road Recreation Ground. Centred around its bandstand,

Despite efforts to pull in a more star-studded line-up, it ended up with just local performers – with Bowie

playing solo. Also on the bill, however, was Tony Visconti, whose professional relationship with Bowie would



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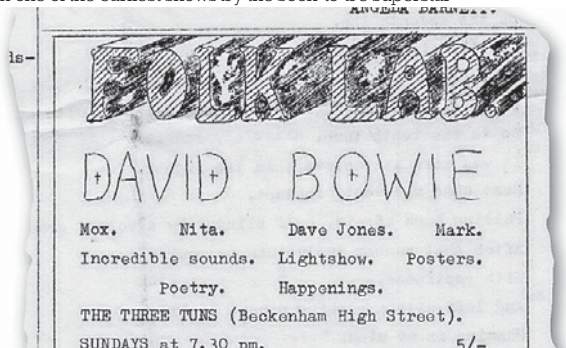
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**EARLY:** The Three Tuns above and its plaque to Bowie and a ticket stub from one of the earliest shows by the soon-to-be superstar



extend right up until his death.

On a sunny day in August 1969, Bowie performed much of his epony-

mously titled album - which would later be renamed Space Oddity when the single proved a hit.



What few were aware of, however, as he performed, was that he was mourning the death of his father who had died earlier that month. As a consequence, he was somewhat more subdued when off stage.

A year later, he would release the single Memory of a Free Festival - penned and originally recorded just a few weeks after the event.

When Bowie finally reached the giddy heights of global superstardom, the festival would become part of rock legend and in recent years was revived in order to raise money to save the bandstand Bowie performed at and which is now a popular local landmark. (Following his death this week, Bromley Council said it would accelerate plans to save the site).

Ms Finnigan added: "The arts lab



was crazy and hectic, but it all happened at a relatively leisurely pace. Of course all of our hard work had gathered quite a following, and it all culminated with the free festival."

Bowie had moved to Bromley from the family's home near Brixton in 1953 when the young star - then David Jones - was just seven years old.

He attended Burnt Ash Junior School, and later Bromley Technical High School.

Now known as Ravens Wood School, current headteacher Sally Spence this week said: "His impact on the worlds of music, fashion and film was profound. His progressive approach and ability to break down barriers has been a great influence on the students of Ravens Wood and beyond. He will continue to be an inspiration long into the future."

"Staff and students will celebrate the life and work of this iconic figure; David Bowie is one of us."

Deputy leader of Bromley Council, Colin Smith, added: "David Bowie

was at the absolute cutting edge of the generation which contributed to the seismic sea change in music and fashion styles which continues to inspire passion both locally and internationally to this day.

"Those of us in our 50s and 60s in particular I suspect, but many, many more as well, have long since been very proud of our adopted Beckenham, and Bromley, boy's roots and what he went on to achieve. Like multitudes of others, we now mourn his passing with great sadness. He may be gone, but his music and legend will live on."

"Our job locally now, in respect and recognition of the unique talent that once walked amongst us, is to redouble our own efforts, to ensure that when it is finally completed, the renovated Beckenham bandstand, which is so indelibly linked with David Bowie and where he famously performed all those years ago, becomes a fitting and enduring tribute to his memory."

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**HEROES:** One of the star turns at the Live Aid concert at Wembley in 1985

## Changes... Chameleon of the eras

**W**HETHER it was a skintight catsuit and a face full of make-up or a dapper jacket and neat-combed hair, David Bowie pulled off a wide variation of looks during his six-decades long career.

He admitted having been "really into clothes" as a teen, and the love of fashion featured throughout his musical exploits.

Aged 15, he had been fascinated by a fellow passenger on the train who he described as managing to look tough while wearing eyeshadow.

"And the jarringness of it was really weird. I thought, I like that – I feel that, not one thing or the other," he

told Interview magazine in 1990.

A master of reinvention, he transformed himself from the theatrical Ziggy Stardust to a glam rocker, soul singer and hippie songwriter over the years.

The David Bowie Is exhibition, which achieved the highest ever advance booking for an exhibition when it opened in London in March 2013, is running at the Groninger Museum in the Netherlands.

Featuring original costumes including a spacesuit-style jumpsuit he wore on television in 1979 in character as Major Tom, the exhibition looks at how Bowie's work both influenced and was influenced by fashion and design.



**SURGE:** Sales of his back catalogue have rocketed since his death



**TRIBUTES:** Fans around the world have left flowers in memory of the talented superstar. All pics: PA



**M**USICIAN and producer Brian Eno said he feels a huge gap following the shock death of his long-time friend.

The former Roxy Music star told how Bowie, who he knew for more than 40 years, had effectively bid him farewell in an email he sent a week before his death.

Eno, who collaborated with Bowie on a number of albums, likened the pair's friendship to that of comedy duo Peter Cook and Dudley Moore.

In a statement Eno said: "David's death came as a complete surprise, as did nearly everything else about him. I feel a huge gap now."

"We knew each other for over 40 years, in a friendship that was always tinged by echoes of Pete and Dud. Over the last few years - with him living in New York and me in London - our connection was by email. We signed off with invented names: some of his were Mr Showbiz, Milton Keynes, Rhoda Borrocks and the Duke of Ear."

"I received an email from him 7 days ago. It was as funny as always, and as surreal, looping through word games and allusions and all the usual stuff we did. It ended with this sentence: 'Thank you for our good times,

Brian. They will never rot' and it was signed 'Dawn'. 'I realise now he was saying goodbye.'"

Dartford rocker Mick Jagger says he will "never forget" his friend.

The Rolling Stones' frontman (pictured right) – who performed with Bowie on the 1985 number one hit Dancing in the Streets to raise money for Band Aid and Live Aid – said the two had remained good friends.

The singer, 72, said: "David was always an inspiration to me and a true original."

"He was wonderfully shameless in his work. He was my friend. I will never forget him."

Yoko Ono (pictured right), widow of former Beatle John Lennon, who co-wrote Bowie's hit Fame, said: "John and David respected each other. They were well matched in intellect and talent. As John and I had very few friends we felt David was as close as family."

"After John died, David was always there for Sean [their son] and me. When Sean was at boarding school in Switzerland, David would pick him up and take him on trips to museums and let Sean hang out at his recording studio in Geneva."

"For Sean this is losing another father figure. It will be hard for him, I know. But we have some sweet memories which will stay with us forever."







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# Lieutenancy announces county's four new deputies

Former governor of Bank of England, director of Medway Ports, Canterbury Crown Court's resident judge and chief executive of Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust join Viscount De L'Isle's team...

**Chris Britcher**

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

**A** FORMER governor of the Bank of England has been named one of four new deputy lieutenants of Kent, it has been confirmed this week.

Mervyn King – now Lord King of Lothbury – served as governor and chairman of the monetary policy committee and financial policy committee from 2003 to 2013. Knighted in 2011 he was made a life peer in 2013 and appointed a Knight of the Garter in 2014. He lives in Canterbury.

Now he has another feather in his cap after being given one of the county's most highly regarded positions.

Although the position is now largely ceremonial, deputy lieutenants come from all walks of life and all parts of the county.

Their appointments are designed for them to use their local and specialist knowledge and experience to positive effect in key areas ranging from education to youth services, to business and the rural economy.

Lord King, 67, joins three new

additions in the role.

Among them is Desmond Crampton from Canterbury, a long time director of Medway Ports. He left his native South Africa to settle in Kent in 1985.

Since then, Mr Crampton has served on several industry and county bodies including the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership and the Kent Economic Board. He led the founding of Lorenden Preparatory school in Painters Forstal, near Faversham, and helped establish the Isle of Sheppey Academy.

He is now a vice president of Demelza Hospice Care for Children after more than a decade as a trustee including six years as chairman.

They are joined by Judge Adele Williams from Ashford who has presided over some of the county's biggest court cases over the years.

She has lived in Kent for the last 36 years, working first as a barrister and then as a judge in the Kent courts since 1974.

At different times, she was both junior and senior of the Kent Bar Mess. She was appointed as a recorder in 1995 and as a circuit judge in 2000.

In 2008, she became resident judge at Canterbury Crown Court. She is diversity and community relations judge for east Kent. She is interested in both the treatment of witnesses in the criminal justice system and in the rehabilitation of offenders. She has been married to Andrew Patience QC, former resident judge at Maidstone Crown Court, for 40 years.

Between 2008 and 2010 they held the distinction of being the only married couple in England and Wales who were both resident judges.

And concluding the quartet of appointments is Bill Ferris.

He has lived in the Headcorn area since 1991 and has been involved in a number of heritage and tourism projects in Kent. He has operated in Tunbridge Wells, Dover and Canterbury as well as nationally.

He has held the post of chief executive of Chatham Historic



**DEPUTY:** Mervyn King – now Lord King – lives near Canterbury



Dockyard Trust since 2000.

It has been transformed into a thriving business, residential and tourism site.

Given an OBE for services to heritage in 2011, he has served on the board of tourism champions Visit Kent for a number of years and has only recently stepped down as chair of the national Association of Independent Museums with more than 1,000 members.

Mr Ferris said: "It is an absolute honour to be recognised for my positive contribution to Kent – and comes as quite a surprise. Although not a native of the county, it has become home to me and my family and is certainly a place to be proud of, not least for its diversity.

"I have been passionate about heritage and tourism for many years; and the role they play in both the regeneration and economic prosperity of an area is of utmost importance to a county like Kent."

The Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Viscount De L'Isle, said: "In making these appointments we are further strengthening a team of men and women who share their great experience, in helping me support the Queen and her family throughout the ceremonial county of Kent."



**NEW APPOINTEES:** Deputy Lieutenants Desmond Crampton (left), Bill Ferris (centre) and Judge Adele Williams (inset)



**TEAM:** Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Viscount De L'Isle

## LIEUTENANCY FACTS...

■ The lieutenancy of Kent consists of the lord lieutenant, vice lord lieutenant, and a maximum of 70 other deputy lieutenants – approximately one per 25,000 people.

■ The office dates back to Tudor times and was originally responsible for the county's local defence and maintenance of order. The lieutenancy is entirely non-political and unpaid.

■ Deputy lieutenants come from all walks of life and all parts of the county. Their local and specialist knowledge and experience is used to positive effect in key areas ranging from education to youth services, and from the

volunteer reserve forces to business and the rural economy.

■ Duties include greeting and accompanying royalty and heads of state during official visits to the county, the presentation of honours and awards on behalf of the Crown, and participation in citizenship ceremonies.

■ They advise on events potentially warranting royal visits, on how local people can put forward others suitable for honours and on anniversaries warranting a message from the Queen. They also advise on how community organisations can gain recognition in the Queen's Award for voluntary service scheme.



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# Challenge to keep commuters on track as the big chill kicks in

It wouldn't be winter without the first flake of snow signalling chaos on Kent's rail network. But, as **Tom Pyman** finds out, Southeastern has a host of strategies in place to keep the trains running...

**R**AIL users in Kent have not had the most glorious start to the new year.

A collapsed sea wall between Dover and Folkestone has seen the line completely closed since Christmas Eve. Meanwhile, a landslide this week saw 200 tonnes of soil, trees and debris on track at Barnehurst, shutting an eight-mile stretch of line between Dartford and Lewisham.

As weary commuters sat and worked out alternative routes, the 'wrong type of sun' which was obscuring drivers' vision, was trotted out by Southeastern as to why there were lengthy delays in and out of the country via Lewisham.

And with the cold snap taking hold and the threat of snow and ice, travellers are bracing themselves for yet more problems.

For many, it seems that planning and preparation for when the temperatures plunge is always lacking.

Behind the scenes, however, engineering teams have been working to prevent the county's rail network grinding to a halt when the first flake of snow or icy puddle appears.

While Network Rail is responsible for the infrastructure of the service, the train operators know they have to do all they can to play their part in keeping everything – pardon the pun – on track.

Mark Johnson is engineering director at Southeastern.

He told KoS: "We have still got a lot of infrastructure from the early days in the 1960s, and it's a challenging time to negotiate

our way through effectively.

"To prevent ice causing a problem, what you need is the [electrified] third rail steel to be at four degrees.

"If it stays at cold temperatures, the ice sticks to it like glue, so we have done a lot with Network Rail looking at keeping power supplied to the train so that it doesn't freeze over."

Southeastern has utilised a range of new technology to help put anti-icing solutions to use.

"We have done something novel which has been in place for four years," he said. "We now have 20 passenger trains which have equipment underneath them to lay an anti-icing solution on the track to complement the rest of the work which is done across a number of organisations working in partnership.

"There is a massive amount of track to cover every day so we use passenger trains to spread the solution across a wide area.

"We put them on the last trains of the day and while we aim to cover as many routes as we can across the network they have to be strategically placed, so major junctions into London get a lot of treatment but so do rails in Chatham, Canterbury and rural areas where there is a high density to sell.

"No other train operating team has got that level of coverage that we have – TfL are the only other ones that apply that technology.

"We are always looking to improve though and we are looking quite closely at the aviation industry in particular.

"When a plane is in snowy or icy conditions, what are they doing that can be applied to trains? That's what we're constantly asking and looking to achieve."

As well as anti-ice solutions, Southeastern also use oil and state-of-the-art gel treatments to keep a greater volume of trains on track: "The oil is important but we are wary of the environmental aspect and have to be very careful with the type of oil we use and we need to see how long it lasts."

Winter's cold temperatures are not the only seasonal issue that causes headaches for engineers, however, as Mr Johnson explained.

"In the rail industry, we look at it as having three seasons – summer, autumn and winter – because spring is a fairly normal period for us," he said.

"There's a lot of press coverage about leaves on the line stopping trains functioning, but until you work in the industry you don't understand how much of an issue it is.

"It's like if you are driving your car in winter and you hit black ice.

"We start preparing for autumn in March or April, so that we are proactive about making sure that the timetables run efficiently.

"We cut back trees nearby to mini-



**RAILS:** Methods in place include treating the rails with a special solution to stop ice from forming

mise the risk of leaves falling on the track and you have to do a lot of proactive work so that we don't run into problems."

Mr Johnson also highlighted Southeastern's sanding protocols, which includes adding sand to 100 trains every night – approximately a third of the entire fleet – so they are able to brake more effectively and pull out of stations without too much difficulty, although an unusually mild autumn has made the task even more challenging.

"This is a huge operation," he said. "It's a bit like turning rail into sandpaper so that there's enough cohesion on the tracks.

"That process runs from October to December and in that two months we handle something like 23,400 bags of sand, or 290 tons.

"It's similar to roads which need gritting and we have to order that

kind of quantity 12 months in advance but it's a constant process and we have daily conferences at this time of year.

"We have developed software to monitor how much we have used and what will be required each night, to provide us with real-time information and analysis, which is really handy."

So-called Skip-stop timetables are used by Southeastern throughout the year so that trains are authorised to skip several stations that have another train en route within 30 minutes, to ensure that the timetable doesn't drastically change.

Mr Johnson also spoke of the importance of having first response teams with the necessary knowledge and expertise nearby to attend to problems as quickly and efficiently as possible.

He said: "There is a robust service regardless of the environment or

weather conditions.

"When a train cannot move we need to get an engineer on site so we have them positioned in seven or eight 4x4s near local stations, ready with emergency equipment and tools to get the train moving again.

"Particularly in winter, they're positioned in key locations should there be a threat of heavy snow.

"In the past we've positioned 12 staff at Tonbridge because it's vital to look after our customers and get the train moving again as soon as possible."

All well and good. But as any commuter knows, the proof of the pudding is in the eating... or for Southeastern, in the running of a semi-coherent timetable.

With its franchise under increasing pressure, Southeastern knows only too well that it cannot afford another winter of discontent.



**CONFIDENT:** Southeastern's Mark Johnson is ready for ice and snow





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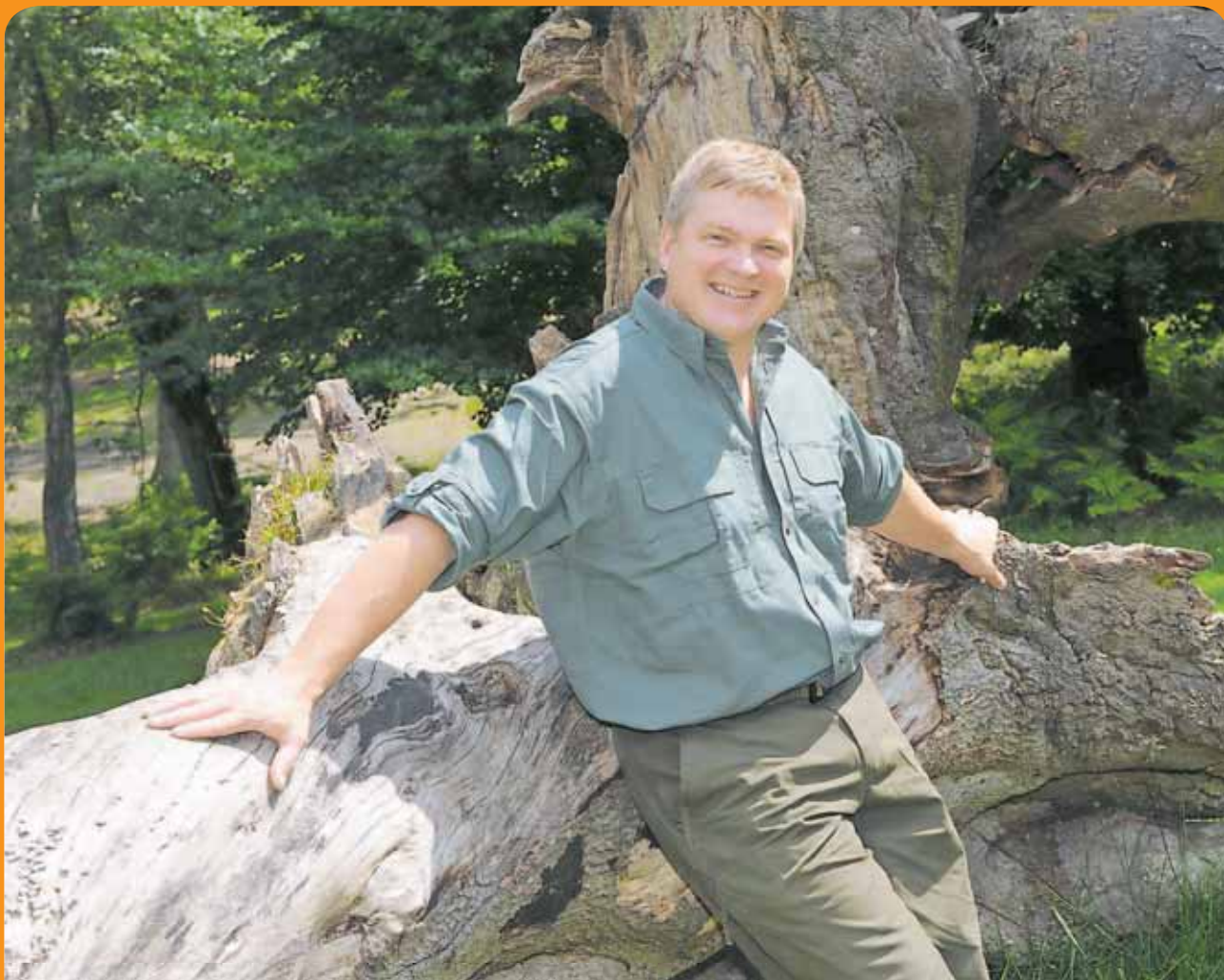


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**ADVENTURER:** Ray Mears will be taking questions from the audience during the show

## Ray Mears will be discussing his adventures in new show

The well-known woodcrafter specialises in bushcraft and survival techniques

**W**OODSMAN Ray Mears will be bringing his new show to the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, in March.

Mr Mears has made a number of TV appearances, specialising in bushcraft and survival techniques.

His six-part series *Wild Australia* is due to begin on ITV in April, and he has written a number of books about travelling in the Arctic Circle.

His new show is called *Tales Of Endurance*, and it will involve Mr Mears talking about his adventures, as well as taking questions from people in the audience.

He said: "People always seem to want to know whether what's shown on television programmes like mine is real. But I like to think the viewer understands that, if you want to really know how to take care of yourself in the

wild, I'm the person to talk to."

Speaking about his occupation as a woodcrafter, he said: "I absolutely love trees and forests.

"I've now got pretty good at divining what the weather will do by listening to the leaves as they respond to the wind. The longer you spend outdoors, the more intuitive you become."

Before his career in TV took off Mr Mears was a woodcraft teacher.

He was approached by the BBC and asked to appear on a show called *Country Tracks* - being invited to contribute five three-minute slots about his speciality, which rose to 10 six-minute slots.

"In those days, you had to win your spurs to appear on television unlike now when it seems that anyone can get their five minutes of fame and for no very good reason," he said.

Mr Mears has since travelled around the globe and encountered natural predators - including a five-metre crocodile on the northern coast of Australia.

"I'd pitched tent on the beach. I'd speared a stingray that day and I'd wanted to cook it inland in the shade but the TV director persuaded me to do it on the beach because it made better pictures.

"What I didn't know at the time was that crocodiles have the most amazing sense of smell and that they have a particular penchant for cooked shark or ray meat."

The crocodile had been travelling along the water's edge all day.

"As I was later to learn, when a crocodile watches you like that, it's thinking about eating you. It was nighttime and I was asleep in my tent - no more than a dome made of mosquito netting. I was

awoken by a noise and, looking over to my right, there was the crocodile four feet from my head," he said.

"I put my hand on my machete which I had with me and which I reasoned I could use to hit it on its nose if it attacked, although I now know that would have been a complete waste of time. If that crocodile had wanted to eat me, it would have done, no question.

"Luckily, though, it was just passing through on its way to what remained of the ray on the campfire. So the food had brought it ashore but it also saved my life.

"Of course, I couldn't be sure where it had gone at the time so I didn't dare venture out of my tent. I just lay very still indeed for the rest of the night."

The show is on March 10. Call 01322 220000 to book tickets.

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## Women Seeking

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**DANCE** partner 65-75 sought by Maureen, Thanet based lady, slim, brown hair, green eyes, seeking dancing, fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420231

**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3000 Box: 419673

**SINGLE** slim female, 68, n/s, GSOH, likes cooking, walking etc, seeks male, single, slim 65-70, n/s, with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420091

**DISCREET** man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. P's call. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3004 Box 418167

**SLIM** female GSOH, 53, likes walking, pub lunches, days out, looking for suit mate, smart appearance, similar interests N/S GSOH, easy going. Text only to Mailbox no: 4762600

**JANE** young 41, very broad-minded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3008 Box: 409715

**KIND** lady, 50s, been broken hearted, seeks kind, genuine man for caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419889

**LUCY** first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3024 Box: 420237

**PAT**, slim, single, 68, non-smoker, GSOH, likes going for walks etc, seeks male, slim, single, 66-70, non-smoker, clean-shaven, GSOH, with similar interests. Canterbury area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081

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**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3016 Box: 413399

**MARION**, early 70s, young at heart, GSOH, active, likes walking, gardening, meals out, travel, theatre and animals, looking for male friendship to share interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419657

**SALLY**, 24yrs tall brunette with feminine curves seeks mature older chap, 35+ for discreet fun only, must be experienced. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3028 Box: 420247

**CHANTELLE**, 5ft3 light brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, like nights in/out, walks, animals, romance seeks honest guy. Littlehampton. Text only to Mailbox no: 4923883

**CHLOE**, pretty brunette, 30yrs good job but lacking male for a naughty side, is that you, age unimportant. Text only to Mailbox No: 4057558

**MARIE**, very lonely middle-aged woman, looking for a kind hearted older man, late 70s/early 80s for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418955

**MELANIE**, tanned, toned, young 41yrs divorcée with own flat, working, solvent, just missing a chap. Text only to Mailbox No: 4112160

**RACHEL**, late 40s, blonde, blue eyes and very voluptuous. Looking for a kind, caring honest man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418741

**KATIE**, 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. Text only to Mailbox No: 4722127

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**ESSEX** lady, mid 60's, adaptable, seeking nice male, likes most things. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418537

**AMANDA**, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418117

**HELEN**, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243

**FEMALE**, 59, GSOH, many interests, seeks caring male for fun friendship maybe more, genuine calls only. Text only to Mailbox No: 4819793

**GORGEOUS** flower, Ashford Kent, 51, larger lady, large personality, easy going, seeks male who likes dogs, animals for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435

**FEMALE** easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603

**PAT**, 68, young at heart, slim, proud 4' 11" GSOH, n/s, likes walking etc. Whistable area, seeks similar slim easy going male 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081

**SUSIE** fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably older, N/S male with own car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537

**HAPPY** young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversational, seeking nice man to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383

**NICE** female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874

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**BLONDE** female, 5ft 1ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025

**JAN** 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

**ATTRACTIVE** lady early 50's, petite, Scandinavian blonde professional, WLTW professional, caring, gentle, 50-60's for attention and future together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416569

**EMMA** slim 5ft 8ins, single employed female with OHAC, enjoys many interests, gym, music, easy-going, genuine, supportive, seeking similar male for a chat, maybe a date. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414957

**RACHEL** attractive, blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, seeking kind, honest, generous kind male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418403

**JAN** 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

**ALISON** 39, petite with long brown hair, hazel eyes, very loving, seeking similar male for an uncomplicated relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416517

**ALISON** 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497

**BLONDE** female, 47, looking for fun, sensual, experienced, understanding, seeking similar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415875

**DEBORAH** 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416515

**SUE** young at heart, good looking, enjoy life, socialising, beach walks, gardening, theatre, seeking male, 55-65 to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416171

**DONNA** 36yrs un-modest but very attractive, nice eyes, good figure, GSOH, OHAC, great job, sick of never meeting Mr Right, looking for someone special. Genuine male please. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415187

**JACKIE** 32, attractive professional, very smart and feminine, long brown hair, seeks smart, confident, older male who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416297

## Men Seeking

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**MALE**, 60, medium build, gosh, seeks attractive female, under 50, for no strings, discreet, daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420621

**DAVID**, 39yrs, divorced with no ties, lovely flat in Spain, seeks travel companion, single mums welcome. Text only to Mailbox No: 4112425

**CLINT**, 37, kind, caring, honest and WLTW someone of any age who is similar and looking for a relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419951

**HEALTHY** 61yr old male, N/S, medium build, likes France, cooking, gardening, seeks female, 50-60 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 286380

**ATTRACTIVE** white gent, 48, 5ft, romantic, easy going, GSOH, seeking young lady, 60-75 for quality discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410025

**BROWN** eyed white mature, handsome male, seeking black female, 18-50 for discreet no strings adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410377

**SIX** foot guy, mature, looking for someone special to spend some quality time with. Please leave me a message I would love to hear from you! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420163

**PAUL** 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077

**MALE** 50, GSOH, looking for soul mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387485

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**CLINT**, 37, kind, caring, honest and WLTW someone of any age who is similar and looking for a relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419951

**NEVILLE** 5ft 6ins, Caribbean, likes wine, nights in, seeks female to spend the rest of his life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333911

**DAVE** 46, seeks active female for walking, climbing and outdoor fun. Days out and evenings in. Friendly and GSOH. Text only to Mailbox no: 5338933

**PROFESSIONAL** gentleman, just retired, own house, loves holidays, WLTW a lady for meals out, and to enjoy each others company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419751

**SIX** foot guy, mature, looking for someone special to spend some quality time with. Please leave me a message I would love to hear from you! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420163

**HUBERT**, lives in Rochester, single, lonely, looking for someone to get together with and make something happen and enjoy the rest of life with! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420049

**GARETH** handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421

**CALM**, kind and good company, male seeking a lovely lady for good times and fun and loving. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419733

**YOUNG** 60yr old male, knows how to treat a lady, seeking special lady to spoil for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417909

**MICK** 50, seeks attractive female for nice times out, genuine calls only. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417691

**PAUL** 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013

**PAUL** GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970

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**PROFESSIONAL** romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195

**PAUL** 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, likes music, cinema, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Tunbridge Wells. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371985

**MALE** 51, 5ft 8ins, N/S, GSOH, easygoing, seeks slim female, 18-45 for friendship, maybe slim-medium build for loving, caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415275

**ROCKABALLY** guy, seeks rock chick, 25-50 who likes 50's rock music and bands. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 284750

**WHITE** Knight 59 5'10" tall, OHAC, in shining armour, looking for Damsel in Distress of similar age to share fun & laughter. Text only to Mailbox no: 5073004

**50YR** old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641

**MALE** 47, builder, seeks lady for companionship and closeness, age and looks unimportant. Text only to Mailbox no: 4924811

**MATTHEW**, five foot eleven, looking for a mature lady for discreet friendship and a few laughs. Dartford area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419469

**45** year old male, looking for a happy intelligent friendly female for company and evenings in or out, looks or race unimportant. Text only to Mailbox no: 5063649

**JOHN**, 47, six foot two, well-built, handsome, non-smoker, intelligent and funny, doesn't take himself too seriously, easy to get along with, seeks attractive female, any age, for discreet, adventurous, any time fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419461



**NICE** looking genuine man would like to meet nice lady any age for company, outings with GSOH. Text only to Mailbox no: 4922399

**ANDREW**, 63, likes animals, walking, boot fares, shopping, looking for someone similar living in the Maidstone/Kent area, for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419203

**RICHARD** 59 from East Kent. WLTW genuine female 50 plus for friendship! Text only to Mailbox No: 4448765

**MALE** 56 yrs, GSOH, n/s, would like to meet a lady to have happy times, lots of love to give, to enjoy good times in and out. Text only to Mailbox No: 418244

**MIKE** Canterbury mature male, seeks single mummy, 28-42, slim-medium build for loving, caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415275

**49YR** old male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789

**BARRY** 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for dining, fun and times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787



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**MALE**, 39, tall, hardworking, 6ft 2, looking for long-term lover/older woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418877

**WRITER** tall, slim, dark hair, generous, seeking broadminded lady for fun times. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412749

**SUGAR** Daddy available! Mature, tall, slim, natural dark hair, seeks lady, age unimportant. Not afraid of commitment. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418889

**SIMON**, 50, actor, loves music, films, reading, writing, loopholes, ambiguity, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia, WLTW a pretty lady, 35 years plus for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418827

**MALE** 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535

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**SUBMISSIVE** bi male, clean and shaven, looking for similar male, n/s, for adult fun, can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420413

**SENIOR** bi male, 70s, n/s, clean-shaven, living in the Maidstone area, seeking similar bi male, aged 50-60, in the Maidstone area, for myself to give service to. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420219

**BI** male 57 slim GSOH seeks local guy for fun and friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4751943

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# Work of an artist who fled Nazi Germany shown in Canterbury

by Molly Kersey-Law

molly.kersey-law@archant.co.uk

**T**WO artists who fled Germany as refugees to England will be featured in a new exhibition in Canterbury.

Their work will form part of an exhibition at the Studio 3 Gallery.

The work of ceramicist and artist Grete Marks - who had to flee Nazi Germany in 1936 - will be shown alongside a fictionalised version of famous Dadaist artist Kurt Schwitters' final years in England.

Ms Marks had established the successful German pottery factory Haël Werkstätten in 1923, but she was forced to sell her business and eventually fled to England following Nazi persecution and the designation of her work as 'degenerate'. She came to England in 1936 and tried to establish herself in potteries in Stoke-on-Trent, but did not have the same commercial success.

Studio 3 Gallery's exhibition was granted unprecedented access to the family's archive of paintings, drawings and ceramics dating from 1919 to 1990.



**ART:** German Boy by Grete Marks, courtesy of the Grete Marks Estate

Mr Schwitters' final years in the Lake District are dramatized in Laure Prouvost's Turner prize-winning video work Wantee.

The 15-minute piece imagines a version of the artist's time there.

Mr Schwitters spent years in internment camps and also had his work declared 'degenerate'.

He later supported himself by painting still-lives and portraits.

Early in their careers Ms Marks

and Mr Schwitters were known for their innovative work

The exhibition explores 'what happens when philosophical ideals can no longer be put into practice, and how the impulse to create and to work can persist in the wake of unspeakable tragedies'.

The exhibition is curated by Katie McGown and it is supported by the Association of Art Historians and the University of Kent's

Projections Festival.

An illustrated catalogue will accompany the show.

For more information about the exhibition you can contact Ms McGown on 01227 823448.

A private view will be taking place on January 21 from 5.30pm to 8pm.

The exhibition will then run until January 24 from 11am to 5pm.

Admission is free.

## The return of the grumpies

THE Grumpy Old Women - Fifty Shades of Beige - will be performed at the Margate Winter Gardens on July 10.

Tickets are £25 and the show starts at 8pm.

Call 01843 292795 to book.



## Hits of Whitney Houston

AWARD-WINNING musical The Bodyguard will be performed in Canterbury next month.

The show features a number of Whitney Houston's hits such as I Will Always Love You.

It will be at the Marlowe Theatre from February 17 to 27.

Call 01227 787787 to book.

## Lee Hurst in Folkestone

COMEDIAN Lee Hurst will be performing his new show - Comedy Show No 9 - at the Folkestone Quarterhouse on February 6 at 8pm.

Tickets are £16.

Call 01303 760750 to book.



## The tale of Bugsy Malone

MUSICAL Bugsy Malone will be performed at the Central Theatre, Chatham.

Set in New York in 1929, it tells the story of a war between rival gangsters Fat Sam and Dandy Dan.

It will run from April 14 to 16.

Visit [www.tickets.medway.gov.uk](http://www.tickets.medway.gov.uk) to book.

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## Noel Coward play on stage

NOEL Coward's hit play *Private Lives* will be performed at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, from Monday (January 18) to January 23.

For more details, visit [www.atgtickets.com/bromley](http://www.atgtickets.com/bromley).



## Jimmy Carr in Gravesend

COMEDIAN Jimmy Carr will bring his new show, *Work in Progress*, to Gravesend.

The host of Channel 4's *8 Out Of 10 Cats* will be performing at the Woodville on April 6.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £21. For more information or to book tickets, visit [www.woodville.co.uk](http://www.woodville.co.uk).

## Circus of horrors in town

THE Circus of Horrors will be bringing their new show – *Welcome To The Carnevil* – to Margate Winter Gardens on February 27 at 7.30pm.

To book, visit [www.margatewintergardens.co.uk](http://www.margatewintergardens.co.uk).



## Wolf Alice in Folkestone

ALTERNATIVE rock band Wolf Alice will be performing at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, on March 21.

The show will start at 7pm and tickets are £21.15.

For more details, or to book tickets, visit [www.atgtickets.com/bromley](http://www.atgtickets.com/bromley).

# Young dancers needed for Sevenoaks shows

By Molly Kersey-Law

[molly.kersey-law@archant.co.uk](mailto:molly.kersey-law@archant.co.uk)

**T**HE English Youth Ballet (EYB) will be holding auditions for parts in a new production at the Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks.

One hundred young dancers are needed for the double bill production, which features the second act of *The Nutcracker* and ballet *Études*.

There will be three performances at the Stag Theatre from May 20 to 21.

Ballet company EYB is now in its 18th year, and it consists of eight international principal dancers.

EYB director Janet Lewis said: "The EYB audition is an experience in itself.

"EYB is all about performance experience and this starts at the audition as the dancers are given a regular ballet class on the stage."

She said that young people were welcome to bring someone with them to the audition.

"Parents and family are encouraged to watch from the



audience," she said.

"We are looking for young dancers of all abilities who can show the audience how much they enjoy their dancing."

The auditions will be held on February 1.

Auditions for dancers aged between eight and 11 will be from 4.30pm to 6.15pm and auditions for those aged between 12 and 18 will be taking place from 6.45pm to 8.30pm.

The young male and female dancers from across Kent who are

selected will be given the opportunity to rehearse with and perform alongside professional principal dancers.

Each of the auditions held at the theatre will take the form of a regular ballet class. Admission is £15.

For more information and to register for the audition call 01689 856747 or email [misslewis@englishyouthballet.co.uk](mailto:misslewis@englishyouthballet.co.uk).

To register on the day you will need to arrive 30 minutes early.

For more details, about EYB, visit [www.englishyouthballet.co.uk](http://www.englishyouthballet.co.uk).



**AUDITIONS:** 100 young dancers will be selected



**BALLET:** Three performances will take place in Sevenoaks

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# The Corrs release album and prepare for a tour

The Corrs' new album *White Light* is available now and their arena tour will be starting next week....

**B**ETWEEN 1995 – when The Corrs released their debut offering *Forgiven, Not Forgotten* – and 2005, when their fifth record *Home* was launched, the band saw album sales of more than 40 million.

Then – Jim, Sharon, Caroline and Andrea all but disappeared. Now, 10 years on, they're back with a new album, *White Light*, which entered the UK charts at No 11, proving there are still plenty of people who care about what The Corrs are up to.

The siblings have been busy promoting the record over the past four of five months, and youngest Corr and singer, Andrea, can't help but notice the change of pace.

Since the hiatus, Andrea's had two

children – three-year-old Jean and Brett Jr who's just turned one – with husband Brett Desmond, who she married in 2009.

She says the band's reunion is only a recent plan, from January 2015, when Caroline suggested they try to write some new music.

"We all missed being in the band, but she was the one who got us together. We had gone off the radar, and there was no record company involvement or anything like that. No one knew we were going to make a comeback. And no one was more surprised than me.

"If you would have said to me that we were going to get back together this time last year, I'd have said, 'What are you talking about?'



**COMEBACK:** The Corrs are back with new album *White Light*

"But if one of us had reservations, we wouldn't be here either. It's all four of us, or none at all."

After a couple of days in the studio to test the water, the siblings decided they had more than enough ideas to contemplate making another album.

By September last year, the quartet were on stage in front of 60,000 people at BBC Radio 2 Live in London's Hyde Park.

Andrea's thoughts move to this month's arena tour, which, given it's their first tour in almost a decade and they've played just a handful of live shows, is some undertaking.

She admits to being a bit more anxious in general than her siblings, and while she says it's never stopped her doing anything, her anxiety does

make her slightly more hesitant about a new endeavour.

"I have to ask if it's worth it. Is it worth making myself more tired, more anxious, busier and all the rest of it? And I have to say, yes, it is worth it," she said.

With things going so well since the release of *White Light*, and growing demand for nostalgia in music, it's a wonder they didn't make their comeback sooner. Do any of the band regret not just carrying on in 2005?

"I don't look back with regrets. I look back and think it all went the way it was supposed to go. I don't wish we had carried on, but I am glad we started again," says Andrea.

*White Light* is out now. The Corrs begin their UK tour on January 19.

## Simon and Garfunkel

**THE** Simon and Garfunkel Story will be performed in Folkestone next month.

The show uses projection photos and original film footage and includes hits such as Mrs Robinson, Bridge Over Troubled Water and Cecilia.

It will be performed at the Leas Cliff Hall on February 19 at 7.30pm.

For more details or to book tickets, visit [www.atgtickets.com/folkestone](http://www.atgtickets.com/folkestone).

## Tale of The Nutcracker

**THE** Moscow City Ballet will perform The Nutcracker in Dartford.

The production will begin its run at the Orchard Theatre on Thursday (January 21) and will be shown until January 23.

Performances will be taking place at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

Tickets range from £20 to £36.

For more information or to book, visit [www.orchardtheatre.co.uk](http://www.orchardtheatre.co.uk).

## Tracy's big adventure

**HAIRSPRAY** The Musical will be performed at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, in May.

Set in Baltimore, the show tells the story of Tracy Turnblad, who is determined to follow her dreams and dance on national TV.

It will run from May 3 to 7, with performances at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

For further details, you can visit [www.atgtickets.com/bromley](http://www.atgtickets.com/bromley).

## Canterbury comedy

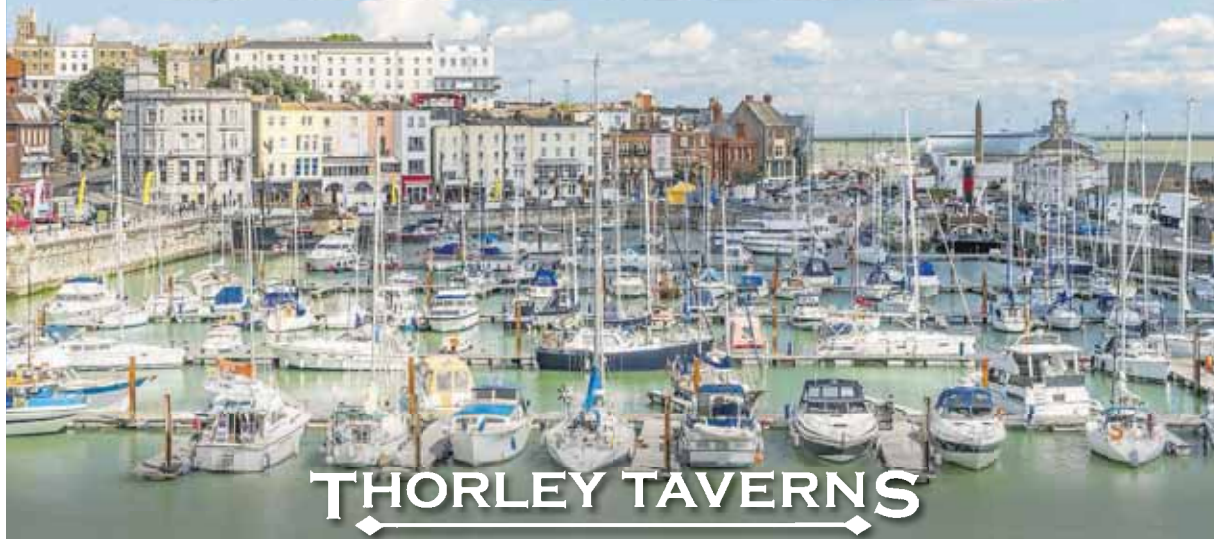
**A COMEDY** night will be taking place at the Marlowe Theatre Canterbury on January 23.

The Marlowe Comedy Club will feature headline act Ed Gamble as well as Luke Benson, Adam Hess and Mark Smith.

The event starts at 8pm and tickets are £14.

To book, call the box office on 01227 787787 or alternatively visit [www.marlowetheatre.com](http://www.marlowetheatre.com).

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# Fitness clothing trends

If your Yuletide featured more excess (of the booze and snooze varieties) than exercise, getting back to peak fitness – or, at least, shaking off the seasonal slump – is no doubt top of your New Year resolutions list.

And with new sporty offerings landing in the shops throughout the month, now's the ideal time to refresh your workout wardrobe.

Whether you're into monochrome minimalism or pops of neon, pretty prints or retro sweats, this season there's an activewear collection to suit everyone. With these chic pieces you'll be well on your way to a style personal best...

## THE BRIGHT STUFF

If you need acid brights and punchy pinks to get you out of the starting blocks on dull winter mornings, H&M's new sportswear collection is just what the personal trainer ordered, fusing fuchsia, coral and neons on well-cut gym essentials.

Following on from Sport England's enormously inspiring 'This Girl Can' campaign last year comes a TGC range at M&S. Peppered with pink and purple, these slogan tees and sleek separates will make you feel ready to take on the world, and a

percentage of the price tag goes to help fund the organisation's work.

Olympic host Brazil is going to have a huge influence on fashion this year, with sporty trends and Rio-inspired styles coming to the fore. Get on board now with the Anita Active Sports Bra in a new Brazilian flag colourway.

The H&M sports tights are £14.99 and the medium support sports bra is £7.99. Visit [www.hm.com](http://www.hm.com).

The M&S collection's This Girl Can t-shirt is £16 and can be purchased from [www.marksandspencer.com](http://www.marksandspencer.com).

The Anita active extreme control Rio sports bra is £48 and available in early February from [www.fleaves.com](http://www.fleaves.com).

## PRINT PERFECTION

Boho vibes and Lycra-based fashion don't necessarily go hand in hand, but White Stuff's new fitness range manages to bridge that gap beautifully, blending tile prints and subdued blue and green hues on soft, stretchy fabrics - the perfect recipe for a serene ballet barre session.

For fashion-forward fitspiration, head to Style PB, the site dedicated to sportswear that's both athletically and aesthetically pleasing. Brands like Varley and Lexie specialise in snazzy patterned leggings, animal

prints and trendy tops.

The White Stuff bend and flex print vest is £29.95 and the lil long leggings are £39.95, both from [www.whitestuff.com](http://www.whitestuff.com).

The Varley Snake sweat top and Lexie Francis leggings are both £65 from [www.StylePB.com](http://www.StylePB.com).

## MOODY HUES

If you prefer to stick to a sporting palette of mostly monochrome, you'll love Boody. New to the UK, the Aussie brand makes tees, tanks and leggings from super-soft organic bamboo yarn, in only black and white.

The fabric is stretchy and super-soft (and stays that way no matter how many times you wash it), so perfect for yoga and pilates.

High-intensity workouts call for more support. The Adidas Essentials and TechFit ranges at Sports Direct offer high-tech pieces in plenty of shades of black and grey, making for effortless mixing and matching - handy if you've signed up to a month of unlimited bootcamp classes.

The Boody v-neck t-shirt is £29.95 from [www.boody.co.uk](http://www.boody.co.uk).

The Adidas techFit ladies long tights are £22.99, and the medium bra is £18.99, both from [www.SportsDirect.com](http://www.SportsDirect.com).

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This year we will be putting on a production of Disney's 'The Lion King' which will take place on February 5th and 6th 2016. This production has over 100 students involved in the show. Tickets for this fabulous event will be on sale through the school's box office in January.

We are a 'Good' school with so much to offer so if you wish to find out more, visit our website at [www.cccgrammarschool.co.uk](http://www.cccgrammarschool.co.uk) or contact the Admissions Registrar (Mrs Susan Hurrell) on 01843 591075 if you wish to visit our school.



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The Nike Gym Vintage line mines a similar vein, with faded marled hoodies and loose, logo-stamped vests, while the Yours Clothing plus-size Athletica range takes the all-American route with varsity numbers and slouchy baseball tops to help you hit a home run.

The Boohoo fit Yasmin yoga harem jog pants are £12 and the Sophia dance long sleeve wrap front crop is £10, both from [www.boohoo.com](http://www.boohoo.com).

The Nike gym vintage long sleeved top is £28 from [www.zalando.co.uk](http://www.zalando.co.uk).

The Yours Clothing black And white no. 28 print short sleeve t-shirt is £14 from [www.yoursclothing.co.uk](http://www.yoursclothing.co.uk).



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# Q&A with actor who will be performing in Kent

If you are looking for events to fill your calendar with this year, Kent theatres are not lacking in shows for audiences to go and enjoy.

Well-known comedians and musicians will be performing throughout the county in the coming months, and a number of West End shows will also be on stage.

One of these shows is *The 39 Steps*, which will be coming to Dartford during its 10th anniversary tour - running at the Orchard Theatre from February 1 to 6.

The show is based on John Buchan's 1914 spy thriller and it was later adapted for the screen by Alfred Hitchcock in 1935.

It tells the story of charming Richard Hannay, who becomes involved in a dangerous game of cat and mouse which takes him from London all the way to the Scottish Highlands.

The show features four actors - who will play an impressive 130 characters in 100 minutes.

One of these actors is Olivia Greene.



The actor trained in musical theatre in Sidcup - enrolling at the Bird College - and she previously performed three shows at the Dartford venue during her time there.

She says that it will feel 'homely' returning to the theatre.

**Q** Tell us a bit about yourself, where you studied and how long you've been acting?

**A** Well my Dad would say I've been acting and performing since I was in a highchair! I grew up in Leicestershire and started singing, dancing and acting with my two older sisters at my mum's dance school - Harborough Academy of Performing Arts. I then went on to train in musical theatre at Bird College in Sidcup.

**Q** The 39 Steps has a rich history, from John Buchan's original novel, the Alfred Hitchcock film, to the hit stage production. Does that put added pressure on you?

**A** It does when you put it like that! The play takes more inspiration from the Hitchcock movie but we've definitely put our own spin on it.

**Q** How have you found the challenge of playing so many different characters in one play?



**A** At first it was definitely a challenge because the switches are quick, but the more I practised the easier it was.

The fact they're all so different from each other makes it easier. There have been times when I've used the wrong accent. Especially



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when another character is speaking to me in a different one.

**Q** Do you have a favourite part in the play?  
**A** I love them all for different reasons, but Annabella

Schmidt, the German spy, is a lot of fun.

**Q** What can Dartford audiences expect from the performance?  
**A** The unexpected comedy element. It's not your normal style of theatre so it's definitely something different. And the fact that it operates on three levels as an adventure, love story and comedy makes it thoroughly entertaining! It's got something for everyone - adventure, thrills, spies, plot-twists, great characters, but at its heart it is a classic love story.

**Q** Which scene do you think Dartford audiences will find the most entertaining?

**A** Some of the moments that Man One and Man Two have together are hilarious and I find it very hard not to laugh myself sometimes.


**Q** Are you looking forward to performing at the Orchard Theatre?

**A** I'm really looking forward to performing at the Orchard again. I performed three different shows there whilst at college, so I think it's going to feel very homely. It's going to be an incredible contrast having last performed as a student with so many hopes and dreams compared to now when my dreams have come true.

**For more details visit [www.orchardtheatre.co.uk](http://www.orchardtheatre.co.uk).**



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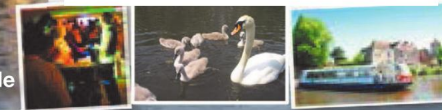
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# 10 healthy foods to enjoy in the New Year

**H**OW's your New Year health-kick going? If you're looking to give your diet a bit of an overhaul in 2016, the good news is - it's probably going to be far easier than you think.

According to caterers Plyvine Catering, at least, who've come up with their top 10 foods for a healthy lifestyle, and they're not exotic fruits or impossible-to-track-down vegetables from the tropics, or fancy supplements and powders you've never heard of.

In fact, their picks include dark chocolate, nuts, fruits and vegetables that you'll even be able to find at your local corner shop - so there's no excuse not to stock up.

Make sure to pop this lot in the trolley next time you do your food shop.

## Here is the top 10:

### 1. Lemons

They say: "Just one lemon has more than 100 per cent of your daily intake of vitamin C, which may help increase good HDL cholesterol levels and

strengthen bones. Citrus flavonoids found in lemons may help inhibit the growth of cancer cells and act as an anti-inflammatory."

### 2. Broccoli

They say: "One medium stalk of broccoli contains more than 100 per cent of your daily vitamin K requirement and almost 200 pc of your recommended daily dose of vitamin C - two essential bone-building nutrients. The same serving also helps stave off numerous cancers."

### 3. Dark Chocolate

They say: "Just one fourth of an ounce daily can reduce blood pressure in otherwise healthy individuals. Cocoa powder is rich in flavonoids and in anti-oxidants shown to reduce bad LDL cholesterol and increase good HDL levels."

### 4. Potatoes

They say: "One red potato contains 66 micrograms of cell-building folate - about the same amount found in one cup of spinach or broccoli. One



**HEALTHY:** Broccoli contains vitamin K

sweet potato has almost eight times the amount of cancer-fighting and immune-boosting vitamin A you need daily."

### 5. Salmon

They say: "A great source of Omega-3 fatty acids which have been linked to a reduced risk of depression, heart disease, and cancer. A three-ounce serving contains almost 50 per cent of your daily dose of niacin which may protect against Alzheimer's disease and memory loss."

### 6. Walnuts

They say: "These contain the most omega-3 fatty acids which may help reduce cholesterol, of all nuts. Omega-3s have been shown to improve mood and fight cancer; they may protect against sun damage too (but don't skip the SPF)."

### 7. Avocado

They say: "Rich in healthy, satisfying fats proven in one study to lower cholesterol by about 22%. One avocado has more than half the fibre and

40 per cent of the folate you need daily, which may reduce your risk of heart disease."

### 8. Garlic

They say: "A powerful disease fighter, garlic can inhibit the growth of bacteria, including E.coli. Allicin, a compound found in garlic, works as a potent anti-inflammatory and has been shown to help lower cholesterol and blood-pressure levels."

### 9. Spinach

They say: "Spinach contains lutein and zeaxanthin, two immune-boosting antioxidants important for eye health. Recent research found that among cancer-fighting fruits and veggies, spinach is one of the most effective."

### 10. Beans

They say: "Eating a serving of legumes (beans, peas and lentils) four times a week can lower your risk of heart disease by 22 per cent. That same habit may also reduce your risk of breast cancer."

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# The top tips on choosing natural flooring

**A**RE you thinking about revamping the interior flooring in your home this year?

If you will be opting for natural flooring, then here are five tips on how to make sure you make the right choice.

MOST natural flooring is made from plant fibres, which are easy to replenish and environmentally friendly, but the plants generally grow in Asia, South America and other far-flung places - which isn't quite so eco. Tips for maintaining natural flooring include using doormats by external doors, vacuuming regularly, putting something underneath chairs and sofas on castors, and immediately treating stains and spills. Some natural flooring has a latex backing, which helps to prevent dirt and dust building up underneath, and some can be treated with a stain inhibitor to keep it looking good for longer. Wool and cotton can be combined with other natural fibres to produce flooring offering the best of both worlds, but if you'd prefer

to stick to one material, below are some of the most popular types of natural flooring.

**1** **Coir** is generally good value and hardwearing. Made from fibres taken from coconut husks, it's coarse and durable which makes it perfect for floors that get lots of use, such as halls and stairs. Its highly textured finish and strong fibres stand up well to wear and tear, but water can mark coir, so it's not ideal for laying in kitchens and bathrooms.

**2** **Jute** is fine, soft and silky, making it suitable for rooms with light foot traffic, such as bedrooms. It's not recommended for use in bathrooms and kitchens (it can shrink after absorbing water); on stairs (it can be slippery and isn't particularly hardwearing); and in areas of bright sunlight (it can fade too). However, in its favour, jute flooring comes in a wide range of natural shades.

**3** **Sisal** is a strong, versatile, hardwearing and anti-static natural fibre and can be used in most rooms, although it's not



suitable for ones prone to high-moisture levels. It can be woven into a huge range of patterns, weaves and colours and can be dyed, unlike most natural flooring, even in metallic hues; shimmering strips of sisal make a stair or hall carpet extra special.

**4** **Seagrass** is not only hardwearing and strong, it's also naturally stain resistant. There are often inconsistencies in its colour and weave, so don't buy it if you want a perfectly uniform look. It has a heavy texture and is suitable for most rooms in the home, except high-moisture ones.

**NATURAL:** Most natural flooring has been made from plant fibres

## TOP TIP

**HANDRAILS** for stairs tend to be expensive, but if you take the time to stain or varnish a cheap softwood rail (visit your local builder's merchants) dark brown and add some nice metal wall brackets, it will look far more expensive than it really was. Nifty!

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# Helping the children who have Dyspraxia

Dyspraxia is thought to affect one to two children in every class of 30, and it is often picked up at school. Experts speak about the difficulties that the condition can cause and what to look out for...

**C**HILDREN who are uncoordinated, disorganised and struggle with hand-writing are often simply written-off as clumsy.

But they may be among the 5 per cent of the population suffering from dyspraxia, a condition that affects fine and/or gross motor coordination and is thought to be hugely under-diagnosed, particularly in girls.

Once "cruelly and incorrectly" referred to as 'clumsy child' syndrome, dyspraxia, which is also known as developmental coordination disorder (DCD), can run in families. There are thought to be one to two children affected in every class of 30, and many well-known names have/had the condition, including Einstein, the actor Daniel Radcliffe, and model Cara Delevingne.

The condition can cause difficulties with memory, perception and processing, along with poor planning, organisation and sequencing skills, which can have a significant negative impact on everyday activities. It can also affect speech.

Children may have problems with

**EDUCATION:** The condition is often picked up on at school



self-care and dressing, writing, typing, riding a bike and playing, as well as other educational and

recreational activities. "Children's dyspraxia is often picked up at school because their

handwriting is so poor," explains Eleanor Howes, general manager of the Dyspraxia Foundation.

"While it's mainly a coordination difficulty that can cause problems with children doing things like

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**DIAGNOSIS:** Sally Payne is a paediatric occupational therapist

riding bikes, tying shoelaces and playing ball sports, organising thoughts, spatial awareness and perception of time can also be difficult."

Research recently commissioned by the Dyspraxia Foundation found more than half (53 per cent) of female respondents said their primary school teachers were unaware of their difficulties, compared with just 39 per cent of the males questioned.

This gender gap also affects dyspraxic secondary school pupils, with 47 per cent of teenage girls reporting the same situation, compared with 32 per cent of males.

Dyspraxia Foundation experts believe the findings may reflect teachers' perceptions of dyspraxia as primarily a male disorder, often leaving dyspraxic girls overlooked in the classroom.

But while research suggests the ratio of males to females with severe

motor co-ordination difficulties is 2 to 1, clearly many girls do have the problem. But it's thought they may be better at masking their difficulties by putting in extra effort and recruiting the assistance of friends to help them cope.

Paediatric occupational therapist Sally Payne, a trustee of the Dyspraxia Foundation, says: "In many ways, it's testament to the resilience, coping mechanisms and emotional intelligence of females that they are seemingly able to disguise some of the difficulties that might be more obvious in boys.

"But sadly, as they get older, issues such as developing social skills, applying make up, choosing clothes and coping with personal hygiene and periods may become harder to cope with and will inevitably make situations such as starting college, leaving home or finding a job difficult and exhausting.

"Through our helpline and social media, we've heard of many cases where anxiety, self-doubt and a severe lack of confidence can soon set in. However, this could so easily be avoided by early diagnosis and intervention."

Although dyspraxia may occur in isolation, it frequently coexists with other conditions such as attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD), dyslexia, language disorders and social, emotional and behavioural impairments.

While the actual cause of dyspraxia is still unknown, research suggests that it's due to an immatu-



**HELP:** Eleanor Howes is general manager of the Dyspraxia Foundation

rity of neurone development in the brain, rather than to brain damage.

The average age for diagnosis is seven to eight, although research suggests many sufferers aren't diagnosed until they're much older.

Early diagnosis is important, stresses Ms Howes, who says parents may pick up on key indicators such as a child being slow to crawl or

walk, or having difficulties with handwriting at school.

"If it's picked up early, children with dyspraxia can benefit from occupational therapy and physiotherapy, and speech therapy if they need it, as some children have difficulty forming words," says Howes.

"There are things that can be done to help, but there's no cure."



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# Travel hotspots to explore in 2016

## TRAVEL: UK and abroad

by Sarah Marshall

**F**OR those looking to get away this year, there are a number of great places to visit depending on what it is that you hope to do.

Whether you're planning on staying in the UK or going abroad for your trip, there are places famed for their scenery, historic background or food for visitors to enjoy.

Here is a list of a few of the attractions that are available:

**Best for culture:** *Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.*

Even after several centuries, Shakespeare's plays continue to impress and entertain audiences worldwide with his works translated into more than 75 languages. This year, attention will be firmly focused on his birthplace Stratford-upon-Avon, marking the 400th anniversary of his death on April 23 with a series of special exhibitions.

Learn about Shakespeare's personal life through artefacts on display at a re-imagining of his former family home, New Place, where he lived for the last 19 years of his life and wrote 26 major works. The new attraction has been billed as the single most significant project to commemorate the playwright's legacy.

Then delve further into his past by visiting Shakespeare's Schoolroom & Guildhall at King Edward VI School, where the Bard honed his writing skills. Following a major restoration, the 15th century building is open to the public for the first time.

The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) will be staging productions throughout the year, along with a new discovery tour, Page To Stage, giving a behind the scenes look at the



**EXPLORE:** There are things to see and do in the UK and abroad

famous playhouse and an opportunity to look inside the RSC's store of 30,000 costumes.

**Best for scenery:** *Utah, USA*

This year, America's National Park service celebrates its 100th anniversary, providing a good excuse to visit some of the country's most pristine and protected areas. The state of Utah is home to a 'Mighty 5' parks, and

with Delta's new daily direct flight from Heathrow to Salt Lake City operating from May 2 (from £754 return), it's even easier to reach.

Marvel at the wind-sculpted sandstone structures in Arches National Park, explore the towering hoodoos in Bryce Canyon, or discover a 100-mile warp in the Earth's crust at Capitol Reef.

After dark, the sightseeing continues at several designated International

Dark Sky Parks. Photograph the Milky Way above the famous Mesa Arch landform in Canyonlands, or wander through ancient Puebloan ruins at the Natural Bridges National Monument.

During the winter season, Utah is a favourite destination for skiers and snowboarders.

The recently opened Cherry Peak Resort, near Logan in northern Utah, features three triple chairlifts and a

## TRAVEL FACTS

For more details about events in Stratford-upon-Avon visit [www.shakespeares-england.co.uk/shakespeare-2016](http://www.shakespeares-england.co.uk/shakespeare-2016).

For further information about things to see and do in Utah you can visit [www.visitutah.com](http://www.visitutah.com).

For details about Pura Aventura visit [www.pura-aventura.com](http://www.pura-aventura.com). For a programme of events visit [www.dss2016.eu/en/](http://www.dss2016.eu/en/)

1.25mile run.

**Best for foodies:** *San Sebastian, Spain*

As the European Capital of Culture 2016, this city in northern Spain will host a series of talks, exhibitions and events throughout the year.

But the main draw continues to be the fantastic range of restaurants and bars available, many of which regularly appear in The World's Best 50 Restaurants list.

Spend a weekend sampling some of the 200 pinxto bars in the Old Town, serving the Basque version of tapas, or incorporate the city into a wider itinerary.

Pura Aventura is running a new 10-night Basque Foodie Adventure, visiting producers and sampling products from the coast to the highlands.

Highlights include a visit to millennia-old salt pans, where harvesters collect salt for Michelin-starred chefs, a pintxo making class in Pamplona, and a visit to the hallowed San Sebastian supper club, the Gastronomic Society. Prices start at £1,995 per person based on two people sharing, including some meals, guides and excursions. Flights to Bilbao are extra.

## Film Reviews by Damon Smith



**ROOM**  
(15, 118 mins) Drama

IN Lenny Abrahamson's riveting drama, based on the book of the same name by Emma Donoghue, a twenty-something mother and her child are imprisoned in a shed that has been their home since she was abducted at the age of 17.

Ms Donoghue's skilful screen adaptation loses none of the raw emotional power thanks to two blistering central performances.

Brie Larson is sensational as the kidnapped parent, who has sacrificed everything to protect her child from what lies beyond the locked door that opens once a week when their captor delivers limited food and provisions in exchange for sexual favours.

Equally impressive is seven-year-old Jacob Tremblay as the boy trapped in a living nightmare beyond his comprehension.

From the moment he was born, Jack has only known the four walls and skylight of the squalid single room he shares with his Ma.

The boy is blissfully unaware that Ma was abducted as a teenager by a man called Old Nick, who is holding them hostage.

Despite her ordeal, Ma protects Jack from sickening reality as best

she can. A television is their only outlet to the outside world that the boy might never see.

After years of suffering, Ma concocts a daring plan to get Jack away from Old Nick and into the arms of her parents Robert and Nancy. If the escape bid fails, however, the repercussions are unthinkable.

**THE REVENANT**  
(15, 156 mins) Action/Drama

If film awards were bestowed for dogged determination and perseverance in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds, The Revenant would sweep next month's Oscars.

It's not a journey into the heart of darkness for the sentimental or faint of heart. Leading man Leonardo DiCaprio puts himself through the wringer for his art.

He plays 19th-century explorer



Hugh Glass, who guides a team of fur trappers and hunters under the command of Captain Andrew Henry. The men come under attack from Native Americans led by tribal chief Elk Dog, whose daughter has been kidnapped.

The interlopers flee for their lives and Glass is subsequently injured in a mauling from a grizzly bear, which is protecting its cubs.

Henry leaves behind two men, Fitzgerald and Bridger, to tend to Glass and his son, Hawk.

Fitzgerald decides to expedite matters by killing Hawk and dragging Glass' near lifeless body into a freshly dug grave.

The explorer regains consciousness some time later and vows to hunt down the men who killed his boy.



**H**AVE you noticed your bird feeders are still full? This may be because the mild winter has provided plenty of natural food for birds, who may be a bit later than usual in arriving in your garden in search of tasty morsels.

However, there's no time like the present to tempt in a greater variety of species, especially as we are approaching the annual Big Garden Birdwatch, in which the public is invited to count the birds in their garden or local park for an hour over the weekend and record the results online at [www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch).

Thousands of children across the UK are also currently taking part in the world's biggest schools wildlife survey, the RSPB's Big Schools' Birdwatch, which helps to track numbers of birds in school grounds. The survey runs until February 12.

Last year's survey revealed a continuing decline in starlings and song thrushes, which have dropped by an alarming 80 and 79 per cent respectively since the Birdwatch began in 1979. Both species are on the UK 'red list', as is the house sparrow, meaning they are of the highest conservation concern.

But refreshingly, sightings of every bird that featured in 2015's top 20 increased on the numbers recorded in 2014, apart from the three finches: chaffinch, goldfinch and greenfinch.

So, what are we likely to see? Well, that depends on what we put in our feeders and the types we use.



**BIRDS:** The Big Garden Birdwatch lasts from January 30 to 31

## Treats to boost bird numbers

Try hanging plastic feeders filled with sunflower hearts to attract finches, tits, sparrows, starlings, song thrush and robins, mesh feeders with peanuts for tits and hanging mesh feeders containing fat balls for tits and sparrows.

Niger seeds are a magnet for goldfinch and siskin, while fat balls are enjoyed by blackbirds, tits, collared

dove, house sparrows and song thrushes. Ground feeders or bird tables with an oat/fruit/fatty nibbles mix are ideal for robins and blackbirds. If you don't have a suitable feeder put food out on an old wooden chopping board, the RSPB suggests.

Never put out any food in nylon mesh bags, which may trap birds' feet. Birds with a barbed tongue, such

as woodpeckers, can become trapped by their beaks.

A bird's body clock works on daylight hours, so in the winter months you may see a feeding frenzy at first light. If you watch your garden birds regularly you'll notice they'll come down to feed again in the late afternoon, before they find somewhere to roost overnight.

Food that's high in energy is vital for birds in winter - peanuts, fat or suet-based foods, seed mixes that contain sunflower seeds or hearts, mealworms and fruit will all go down well. Water is important for birds, so make sure you keep a birdbath or two topped up to encourage them further.

Big Garden Birdwatch takes place on January 30 to 31.

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

## Tax hike due to the migrant rise

KENT County Council is reporting that it will be increasing its tax bills by nearly four per cent this year [KoS, last week], an increase which will obviously add to the burdens of ratepayers within the county.

While some of this may be due to normal operating needs it is obvious that the effects of the migrant crisis are having a detrimental effect on the county's finances, both in the costs of extra security and the amounts being expended on those who succeed in reaching this country by breaking the law.

In addition the pressures being put on the provision of schools and health care are detracting from the services available to the indigenous population, who are paying for the same.

It is totally unacceptable that the citizens of Kent should be penalised because of the desire of the government to bow the knee to their European masters and allow the idiocy of the Schengen treaty to inflict penalties on this country, despite the fact that we have not signed up to it.

Clearly it is essential we leave the EU and take back full control of our borders, leaving us free to decide just whom we wish to admit into the country.

**Colin Bullen,**  
Tonbridge

## Five reasons to exit Europe

THE EU membership debate appears long on column inches and short on facts and leadership.

Five important points that do not appear in most articles:

1. NATO is equally or more responsible for keeping peace in Europe for so long.
2. Europe was designed to be undemocratic in an attempt to stop "a Hitler type hijacking" of democratic power ever happening again. The founders of the European project Monnet and Schuman were so disturbed by what they had seen of popular support for Hitler, they decided electorates were not to be trusted to choose their rulers and so devised a system whereby an appointed bureaucracy would take precedence over all and any elected representatives. Effectively they have created a dictatorship.
3. Winston Churchill's observation that democracy had many faults but he had not experienced a

## LETTER OF THE WEEK



## Blame the government not Kent Police for missing foreign fines

ONE thing seemed evident from Graham Steven's attack on Kent Police in KoS last week – he has an 'axe to grind'.

To assert that Kent Police 'isn't fit for purpose', because they have failed to collect fines from foreign drivers, suggests that he thinks they are unique in that regard. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Before making such an allegation he should have established the facts of the situation. For example: the number of penalties due for unpaid tolls at the Dartford Crossing, or how many unpaid Congestion Charge penalties are written off by Transport for London every week. Indeed, trying to recover unpaid penalties from foreign vehicle (not just car) drivers is a problem for every enforcement agency in the land.

It is frankly ridiculous to suggest that every foreign driver who cannot pay should be arrested, have their car impounded and be put before a court. That is a wholly impractical proposition, which if implemented would have the potential to see our roads overflowing with foreign drivers who couldn't pay their fines. Something which our legal process, government and European law would never allow to occur.

He also asserts the government

should recover the lost revenue by cutting the police budget. He quite obviously has no idea that government enforced budget cuts to Kent Police have already resulted in the loss of over 500 experienced officers in just the last three years. With still more so called 'efficiency savings' yet to be made, cutting the police budget further to cover the cost of the unpaid penalties of foreign drivers, which Kent Police is powerless to recover, would just make the problems the chief constable is facing, even worse.

Very few of these penalties have been as a result of Kent police actually stopping the vehicles involved. The great majority (probably over 90 per cent) have been caught on cameras, and cameras cannot deliver what Mr Stevens suggests should be happening. They cannot stop or arrest anybody.

The only people that can do that are police officers and this government's policies have made that less likely than ever before.

Kent Police resources are now so stretched that routine police patrolling is in danger of becoming a thing of the past. To emphasise that point, I finish with this question: When was the last time any reader saw a Kent Police traffic car seemingly just on routine patrol on our county's motorways?

**Christopher Hudson Gool,**  
Maidstone

better system is most probably relevant. Perhaps the greatest Englishman would be turning in

his grave if he witnessed the willing march to European dictatorship and the fact that we

appear to be the Vanguard.

4. Europe's objective is to create an undemocratic 'United States of Europe', with one currency, one set of laws and one taxation system – total integration. But our politicians overwhelmingly reject membership of the Euro (thankfully) which means we can never be an integral part of Europe, despite suffering the financial discomfort and repercussions of the Mediterranean countries such as Greece.

5. Europe is sinking under the tsunami of migrants which will inevitably include undercover militants and terrorists and will lead to the EU's downfall reflecting the 'Trojan horse occurrence'.

The case therefore is to stay independent, stay loyal to being a trading partner but detach ourselves from Europe's further integration process to dictatorship, while continuing with NATO and continuing with Trident submarine protection.

This course of action will save us billions in membership fees – which in turn will allow our politicians to concentrate on our residents, our infrastructure, our homeless, our hospitals, our schools and our way of life.

**Edward La Coste,**  
Lamberhurst

## Airport plans are right move

I HAVE followed with interest about the extended opening hours of Biggin Hill airport. And for once in a very long time I have to come down on the side of the bureaucrats.

The local council this time have shown great common sense and fore site for employment for local people in the future.

Biggin Hill Airport has been open for almost 100 years and has served the area well through two world wars and Cold War by the RAF, now in time of peace it is serving the area with employment for local people.

Yet there are some short sighted people that obviously have too much time on their hands complain about something that will have very little or no affect on their every day lives.

I had the good fortune to live in Biggin Hill for more than 20 years but had to move because there were very few local jobs.

Just for the record, I live under the flight path for City airport with large passenger aircraft flying low over head also large passenger aircraft taking off from Heathrow.

**R Webb,**  
Gravesend

## KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

**Kent on Sunday will:**

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.

- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to

people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

**We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.**





## St Clement's Church, Old Romney

by **Chris Baker, Littlestone**

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ATG TICKETS





**STUDENTS:** The restaurant offers a variety of menus

## Restaurant is led by college students

IF you are looking for a fine dining experience that won't cost you the earth, then look no further than BR6 Restaurant in Orpington's town centre. This unique restaurant is led by students from Bromley College's Hospitality, Food and Enterprise College – overseen by head chef, Jason Main.

A variety of menus are on offer, ranging from lighter lunch options during the week to five course tasting menus on Friday and Satur-

day evenings.

BR6 is fully licenced, offering a full wine menu to accompany the food choices. Parties, functions and business groups are welcome.

Additional conference facilities are available and up to 100 guests can be catered for.

During January, BR6 is offering 20 per cent off your meal when you book a table online or over the phone. To book, visit [www.BR6-restaurant.co.uk](http://www.BR6-restaurant.co.uk) or call 020 8295 7096.

## Creative success at a Ramsgate school



**CREATIVE:** The school offers an array of opportunities to students

YOU may have heard in the news that the Government's intent to alter the National Curriculum and changes to school funding will have a direct impact on the creative arts subjects that are offered within schools.

Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School is pleased to say this is not the case with them. In fact, the school's reputation for being a leading centre for creativity is increasing every year.

The school offers an array of opportunities over and above GCSE and A level music and music technology.

They have 12 music teaching rooms and provide the opportunity to take part in various bands and choirs - performing nationally and internationally.

Drama studies is provided at GCSE and A level within two dedicated drama studios.

The school has a wonderful stage and can perform to audiences of 250 people.

This year they will be putting on a production of Disney's *The Lion King*, running on February 5 and 6.

To find out more about the school, visit [www.ccgrammarschool.co.uk](http://www.ccgrammarschool.co.uk).



## Bishop Challoner School Shortlands

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## Sport for all pupils at Ashford School



**SPORT:** Ashford School offers a number of scholarships to pupils joining Year 5, 7, 9 and 12

WITH an ethos of 'sport for all' its pupils, Ashford School is celebrating the opening of its latest investment – a second floodlit all-weather pitch.

Head and HMC Chair-elect Mike Buchanan said: "Sport at Ashford School is a key and strong element of pupils' education. This development is greatly enhancing the facilities available and hence the quality of what we are able to do."

Work began last summer to redevelop 25 acres of land at the prep school in Great Chart and now the whole school are enjoying using the second floodlit AstroTurf.

In September the rest of the natural pitches will be in use, including a running track, and in the spring of 2017 pupils will be able to enjoy the new cricket wickets.

For more details, call Rachael Cox on 01233 739030 or visit [www.ashfordschool.co.uk](http://www.ashfordschool.co.uk)



By Steve Loader  
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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motoring reviews in...

KENT LIFE

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## Hyundai goes hyper-active

**PREVIEW:** New SUV-style version of the classy i20 supermini underlines the Korean brand's growing UK sales clout after a record 2015...

**H**YUNDAI is pumped up in more ways than one, with sales booming and a new jacked-up spin-off from the popular i20 supermini range.

The ambitious Korean brand has celebrated its best ever year in the UK, having sold 88,257 vehicles in 2015, a year-on-year rise of 7.5 per cent, since Hyundai entered our market 33 years ago.

2015 also saw the brand pass the one million vehicle sales milestone in the UK.

Growth has been across the market too – 4.0 per cent private sales in 2015 versus 10.7 in fleet – and is underpinned by its youngest ever model line-up.

The spearhead, accounting for nearly a quarter of Hyundai's total sales, is the i10 city car, a relatively huge vehicle with big car appeal and specification, all within a compact on-road footprint.

But the brand's expanding line-up is also about to be joined by another model, the i20 Active based on the classy-looking five-door i20 hatch, but given SUV accoutrements and a 20mm boost to its ride height – with seating raised slightly inside too for a better view out and easier entry and exit – though there's no mention yet of 4x4 as well as front-wheel drive being offered.

The i20 Active's obvious rival is the cheap-as-



chips Dacia Sandero Stepway, to which the Hyundai offers a classier alternative, though we still expect it to be keenly priced – especially when taking in account Hyundai's generous five-year/unlimited mileage warranty.

The i20 Active is distinct from its standard five-door and three-door i20 Coupe siblings due to unique front and rear bumpers with

integrated skid plates, rear spoiler, bold side skirts and cladding, robust wheel-arch mouldings, silver roof rails, and high-gloss black grille.

In addition to a 1.0-litre turbodiesel, the Active also introduces an all-new 1.0-litre turbocharged three-cylinder petrol engine to the overall i20 range.



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MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. \*Official fuel figures for the Isuzu Yukon Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 31.7 (8.9), Extra Urban 44.1 (6.4), Combined 38.7 (7.3). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 192g/km. For model specific figures please contact us directly or visit [www.isuzu.co.uk](http://www.isuzu.co.uk)

†Price shown is an Isuzu Yukon Extended Cab CVOTR with manual transmission, automatic transmission also available from £21,499 CVOTR. Commercial vehicle on the road price includes delivery, number plates, 12 months road fund licence and first registration fee, excludes VAT. \*5 year/125,000 miles (whichever comes first) warranty applies to all new Isuzu D-Max models. Special paint finishes extra at £400 excluding VAT. Finance options available at participating dealers, subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. [www.isuzu.co.uk](http://www.isuzu.co.uk)



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# Peugeot roars back to GTi podium

Lion brand's latest GTi is clever mix of pussy cat and wildcat for both humdrum driving and open road enjoyment, **writes Steve Loader...**

It took time, but Peugeot has regained the position it revelled in during the 1980s: as a champion GTi producer.

The flagship then was the legendary 205GTi, though the bigger 309's merit has since been lauded too.

But the French brand then gradually lost the plot to the point where its UK arm apparently begged the French HQ not to launch a GTi version of the current 208 super-mini, unless they got it right.

They did, and followed up last year with a 308GTi (from £26,555) based on the elegant family hatchback yet blessed with its own distinct identity – as it should be.

This car also marked Peugeot's return to medium-size performance cars after skipping two generations – the 307 and previous model 308.

This latest GTi – short for Grand Tourer injection – features the most powerful 1.6-litre petrol engine currently available, and in two power outputs: 250hp and 270hp.

This enables the 308GTi 250 to sprint to 62mph in just 6.2 seconds – 6.0 seconds flat for the 270 (from £28,155).

But Peugeot claims the new scorcher is not just about straight



line power; a limited-slip differential on the 270's front driving wheels is designed to channel driving power to the wheel with the greatest traction, boosting cornering speed, grip and handling.

The car sits 11mm lower, and the squat and powerful look is enhanced by bespoke GTi front and rear designs.

Dedicated colours are also featured, including an exclusive 'Coupe Franche' red and black two-tone design for the 270 – available for an extra £1,300.

This works a bit like a 'go faster' stripe, making the eye believe the car is moving that bit quicker when in motion, and even on



the move when stationary.

The performance theme continues inside, with 'Peugeot Sport' and GTi signatures, plus racing-style aluminium foot pedals, foot rest and gear knob.

And, in a nod to the 1980s hot hatch heyday, red stitching abounds on the sports seats, door panels, gear

## Peugeot 308GTi 250

Price:	from £26,555
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	SEAT Leon Cupra

lever and premium mats.

The compact steering wheel of the 308 range also comes into its own here, customised with a GTi logo – naturally.

Whilst I lamented that the actual test car was the 'junior' 250 model, it did at least give me the chance to applaud the all-round appeal of this latest GTi.

In the same way that the 208GTi put down a powerful marker as a sporting car that can also do humdrum miles in comfort, the 308GTi 250 makes the same point.

Too many hot hatchbacks of the recent past ticked boxes on power and straight line performance, but were an irritating handful in everyday road conditions and weather due to brutal suspension and channelling too much raw power to the front wheels.



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Official fuel consumption figures for Abarth range mpg (l/100km): Combined 45.6 (6.2) – 48.7 (5.8), Urban 34.4 (8.2) – 37.2 (7.6), Extra urban 55.4 (5.1) – 60.1 (4.7), CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions: 145 – 134 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> figures based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.



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## LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

### MAIDSTONE COUNTY COURT

No. 76 of 1994  
KEVAN FRANCIS LARBEY  
(In Bankruptcy)  
Date of Birth: 29 November 1949.  
Occupation: Bedroom Furniture Manufacturer. Residential Address: 86 Triton Fields, Kennington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 9HL. Trading Name or Styles: Cox (UK) Souths. Trading Address: Units 9 & 13 Orchard Industrial Estate, Christen Way, Parkwood, Maidstone, Kent  
Notice is hereby given to all known unsecured creditors pursuant to Rule 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the last date for proving debts against the Debtor is 8 February 2016 by which date claims must be sent to the undersigned, David Elliott of Moore Stephens LLP, Victory House, Quayside, Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4QU, the joint trustee in bankruptcy of the Debtor. Notice is further given that the joint trustee in bankruptcy intends to declare a first and final dividend to all known unsecured creditors within four months of the last date for proving. Should you fail to submit your claim by 8 February 2016 you will be excluded from the benefit of any dividend.  
Further details contact: Frankie Hewett, Tel: 01634 895100, Email: [frankie.hewett@moorestephens.co.uk](mailto:frankie.hewett@moorestephens.co.uk)  
m Ref: C69830  
David Elliott and Diane Hill, Joint Trustees

## General BMD Displays

### DENIS DUMAS ROLPH

Passed away peacefully on  
28th December 2015 aged 93 years.

Much loved uncle and friend  
who will be sadly missed.

Funeral to be held at  
All Saints' Church, Marlow  
on Thursday 21st January  
at 12noon followed by cremation  
at Chilterns Crematorium at 2pm.

Family flowers only, donations if  
desired to the Royal National Institute  
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Funeral Service, 8 Princes Street,  
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Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEOM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

## Ward Clerk – Margate

**Part time Hours: 20 hours per week (Saturday & Sunday plus one other shift)**  
**Salary: £16,171.66 pro rata**

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic and motivated Weekend Ward Clerk to join the team at Spencer Private Hospitals. The role itself will include every Saturday and Sunday as well as one five hour shift during the week.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and motivated individual who is able to support the team to deliver a professional and responsive service to patients, visitors and professionals alike.

The successful candidate will be based on our friendly, caring and fast paced ward. As Weekend Ward Clerk you will need to have a flexible approach, outstanding communication and administration skills and be able to work well under pressure

### Qualifications and Experience

- Maths and English GCSE A – C Grade or equivalent
- 2 years working in an administrative environment
- Good working knowledge of Word/Excel/Outlook
- Exceptional customer service skills

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Julie Pain, Administration Supervisor on 01843 234558

Previous applicants need not apply

**Closing date: 21/01/2016**

**Interviews for this role will take place on 28 January 2016**

**For a job description and application form please contact:**

Justine Whittle, HR Assistant telephone: 01304 222684

E-mail: [recruitment@spencerhospitals.com](mailto:recruitment@spencerhospitals.com)

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We require Finance staff to support the central team of finance assistants within the Williamson Trust of secondary and primary schools.

You will be a motivated, conscientious and a reliable person able to work effectively as a member of a team as well as individually. Experience in a school finance office essential and using PS Financials accounting software would be an advantage.

OFSTED awarded the school an outstanding grade in every category in our most recent inspection, commenting that "students thrive within its distinctive ethos, enabling them to succeed academically and to develop into confident, well-rounded individuals who are prepared extremely well for their future lives."

The School has recently been designated one of the first 100 National Teaching Schools, has achieved a Medway Council Gold Award in recognition of excellence in its provision of CPD and is a National Support School.

If you are interested in working with bright, talented pupils, then please contact the P A to the Headteacher Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, ([harrisonj@sjwms.co.uk](mailto:harrisonj@sjwms.co.uk)) 01634 844008 or visit our website [www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk](http://www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk) where further details and an application form can be downloaded.

The Williamson Trust currently consists of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, The Hundred of Hoo Academy, High Halstow Primary School, Elaine Primary Academy, Allhallows Primary Academy, Stoke Community School and finally, as a co-sponsored academy, St James Church of England Primary Academy, all providing exceptional career development opportunities.

We are committed to the safeguarding and well-being of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Closing date for applications – **25th January 2016**  
Interviews will take place week beginning – **1st February 2016**  
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Further details and application forms may be obtained from our HR Manager by email at [k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk](mailto:k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk) or by telephoning 01474 566552 ext 1120.

Further details and an application forms may be obtained from our **HR Manager by email at [k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk](mailto:k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk) or by telephoning 01474 566552 ext 1120**

**Closing Date: 18th January 2016 at 9.00 am**  
**Interviews: w/c 25th January 2016**  
CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).  
Thamesview School operates a no smoking policy.

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**Be part of our successful team**  
**TRAINEE REPORTER**

A golden opportunity has arisen to join our hard-working news team to work across our range of titles, including Kent on Sunday, the Kentish Times series and their associated websites.

We are seeking someone with a desperate desire to shine as an essential part of our news gathering team, with an appetite for getting the very best stories, an ability to come up with nonstop ideas, and a need to prove themselves in this highly competitive industry.

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Please send your completed application form (see [www.archant.co.uk/careers/vacancies](http://www.archant.co.uk/careers/vacancies)) quoting the reference number: RL/EDT575/TRKOS/Jan16 to [landonrecruitment@archant.co.uk](mailto:landonrecruitment@archant.co.uk) along with a covering letter explaining why you are suitable for the role and what you could bring to our news operation.

**Closing date for completed applications is Friday 26th January 2016.**

Please note that if you have not been invited in for an interview within three weeks of the closing date, then you can assume on this occasion that your application has been unsuccessful.

To find out more:  
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**Kent on Sunday**

**NOTICE OF INTENDED LAND DISPOSAL**  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**  
**SECTION 123 (2A)**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council intends to dispose of the freehold interest in areas of land, which are for identification purposes described in the schedule to this notice.

This notice is given in so far as the areas of land consist of or form part of an open space within the meaning of the above Section.

Plans of the land are available to view at the Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AB or at the Weald Information Centre, The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook TN17 3HF.

Objections to the proposed disposals must be made in writing to the Head of the Legal Services Partnership, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS by no later than Friday 29th January 2016.

**SCHEDULE**

Land lying to the south east of Dorothy Avenue, Cranbrook, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.237 acres)  
Land at Prospect Park (Plot A), Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.038 acres)  
Land at Prospect Park (Plot B), Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.110 acres)  
Land on the south east side of Woodbury Park Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.064 acres)  
Land being the Former Telephone Exchange, Town Hill, Lamberhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.035 acres)  
Land on the South East Side of North Farm Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.033 acres)  
Land at Milk House Cottages, Sissinghurst, Cranbrook, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.051 acres)  
Land on the east side of Blackhurst Lane (Plot A), Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.246 acres)  
Land on the east side of Blackhurst Lane (Plot B), Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.311 acres)

John Scarborough, Head of Legal Partnership  
Dated January 2016

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Have the ability to work methodically with accuracy and attention to detail.  
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Over 40s only  
£10pp deposit

## 60s Party Break Stoke Rochford Hall, Lincs

30 April, 2016  
Quote: SR4-2-KOS

Join us for a 60s-themed private party break at a super country house hotel in the heart of rural Lincolnshire. Stoke Rochford Hall, near Grantham, is a unique hotel housed in a historic Victorian mansion set in 28 acres of landscaped parkland. You will enjoy live 60s tribute acts both nights and guests have free access to the hotel's leisure club which provides a state-of-the-art gym, heated covered pool, sauna and steam room.

**INCLUDED:** 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & tea/coffee tray • 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts • Live entertainment both nights • Free use of leisure facilities (indoor pool & gym)



**3 NIGHTS  
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Entertainment  
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## Hotel Piccadilly Bournemouth

Fridays:  
19 February & 4 March, 2016  
Quote: BO2/3-KOS

The Hotel Piccadilly has a proud reputation as one of the highest rated AA 3-Star hotels in Bournemouth. It is well located in the resort's East Cliff area, a short stroll from the beaches and gardens that separate the pedestrian shopping centre and designer boutiques, from the sea. All bedrooms are en-suite with TV and tea/coffee making facilities. There will be entertainment provided one night during your stay.

**INCLUDED:** 3 nights sharing a twin/double en-suite room • 3 breakfasts • 3 dinners • Entertainment 1 night



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## Worthing Winter Warmer Party Chatsworth Hotel 29 Jan & 5 Feb, 2016 • Quote: WG1/2-KOS

Join us in Worthing for a Winter Warmer Party and enjoy £1 drinks and live entertainment every night. The Chatsworth is one of the finest hotels on the south coast, just a stone's throw from the sea and a short stroll to the town centre. All bedrooms are en-suite and a lift services all floors.

**INCLUDED:** £1 drinks from 7pm to 10pm both evenings - pint of house beer or small glass of wine • 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts • Live nightly entertainment • 2 nights sharing an en-suite room with TV & free wifi



Free drinks  
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Over 40s only  
£10pp deposit

Showaddywaddy

**3 NIGHTS  
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## Mamma Mia & Super 70s Party Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast 8 July, 2016 • Quote: SS7-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for a Super Summer Party - for over 40s only - to make the most of our favourite season. We've lined up a brilliant entertainment showbill featuring 70s themed music and nostalgia, including a live performance by 70s rock-n-rollers Showaddywaddy, a screening of Mamma Mia the movie, plus Abba and Rod Stewart tribute acts. With non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and free drinks every night, this is one party weekend you won't want to miss.

**INCLUDED:** 3 Free drinks per person every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrade available



# Kennedy ready for Haye chance

Folkestone boxer steps into the ring at the O2 this weekend



## Boxing

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

FOLKESTONE boxer Josh Kennedy says stepping into the ring at the O2 Arena will be the biggest opportunity of his career.

The 24-year-old will appear on the undercard of David Haye's comeback fight against Australian Mark de Mori this weekend, in front of the eyes of thousands in London, and millions more at home.

Speaking before his bout with Slovakian journeyman Elemir Rafael in front of the television cameras of freeview channel Dave, he told KoS of the importance of being given a platform like this for his career.

"It's a fantastic opportunity," he said.

"So far all of my fights have been at

**READY:** Josh Kennedy appears on the undercard of David Haye's comeback fight this weekend

Pictures: SAM LORT

York Hall in front of about 2,000 people, so it's a big step to then go out there in front of 15,000 or 17,000 people and everyone watching on TV.

"But it's a great chance to showcase my ability, and if I do well on this show, I might get more promoters coming after me and wanting me on big undercards."

The super-bantamweight has won all four of his professional fights to date by stoppage, and says that was a factor in getting him on the bill for this weekend's big event.

He said: "We found out about five weeks ago, when David's promoters came to my manager asking for people to put on the undercard, but they wanted fighters with at least six bouts under their belt."

"I've only had four but they were all by knockouts so they agreed to put me on, which is flattering and a real

show of confidence in me."

While some would be fazed going into an arena so vast, Kennedy is simply looking forward to the prospect

"A lot of people would probably crumble but I've been doing this long enough and if anything I thrive off the pressure and I'm 100 per cent prepared for it now."

"I've been in the gym for several hours a day, six days a week, working hard so that I'm as ready as I can be."

"I got a bit of time with my family at Christmas but didn't get to eat quite as much turkey as I'd have liked."

"I'm really excited and the support I've had from people like Civil Rail Solutions, Shepway Sports Trust, Dynamic Sports Nutrition and Your Style Design, has been crucial in getting me here, and hopefully I can now go on to even bigger and better things."

## One in, two out as Bull shuffles Margate pack

## Football

MARGATE have announced the signing of Matt Johnson from Ebbsfleet United on an 18-month deal.

The midfielder, 25, joined the Blues on a one month loan deal at the end of 2015 but has now signed permanently at Hartsdown Park.

Johnson scored his first goal for the club in last week's 3-2 victory over Maidenhead United.

Before joining Fleet, he enjoyed spells at Rushden & Diamonds, Dover, Bishop Stortford and Braintree.

Boss Nikki Bull was delighted to add Johnson to his squad on a permanent basis.

"It is a very important signing for us, he is a big presence for us in midfield," he said.



**PLEASED:** Margate boss Nikki Bull

"A lot of his work goes somewhat unnoticed but he gets around the pitch and also scores goals like we saw last week."

The club have also confirmed that Solomon Taiwo has departed having

been released from his contract.

The former Cardiff City and Dover Athletic midfielder made 23 appearances for the Gate, but fell down the pecking order in recent weeks after a spell on the sidelines.

Bull said: "Solomon has recently returned from injury and is fully fit but he has found game time hard to come by but his attitude has been first class."

"Sometimes you join a club and it just doesn't work out, it happened to me during my career."

"Sol has a great attitude and I am sure he will move on from here and go on and have a good season but it just didn't work out for him here."

Alex Gaggin, dual registered with Erith Town, has also been released from the club, who have recently moved clear of the bottom three.

## Sport Shorts

» Email [sports@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:sports@kosmedia.co.uk) or call Tom Pyman on 01233653477

## Hawkins advances at Alexandra Palace

BARRY Hawkins' incredible journey at the Snooker Masters continued on Thursday as he beat Mark Allen to advance into the semi-finals of the competition.

The Ditton-born star overcame his Northern Irish counterpart by six frames to two.

The world number eight lost the first frame as Allen posted a 109 break, but won the next four to take control of the match.

Allen briefly halted his charge by taking frame six, but Hawkins claimed the last two to set up a semi-final contest on Saturday with either Judd Trump or Neil Robertson, who play this afternoon.

The triumph comes on the back of his first ever victory in the competition on Tuesday night, when he beat Joe Perry 6-3.

Hawkins will be looking to emulate his World Championship form in recent years, which saw him become an unlikely finalist in 2013, and reach the semi-finals in 2014 and 2015.



**IMPRESSED:** Barry Hawkins



**STONEBRIDGE:** Home of Ebbsfleet United

## Fleet snap up McLean on a free from Barnet

EBBSFLEET United have secured the signing of striker Aaron McLean from Barnet.

The 32-year-old, who has scored over 100 goals across more than 350 appearances in the Football League, has been brought in to provide extra firepower for the north Kent outfit's promotion bid.

McLean caught the eye at Peterborough, where he scored 70 goals in a four-year stay that included successive promotions from League Two to the Championship, before joining Hull

City, for whom he made an appearance in the Premier League in 2013.

Boss Daryl McMahon told the club's official website: "I have been looking to bring in another striker to give me attacking options in the remaining 18 games and I am delighted to have persuaded Aaron to drop down two levels."

"He is a bubbly character and has bought into our plans for progressing the club on and off the pitch and he will give us greater competition for places."

## Mills extends stay at Maidstone

MAIDSTONE United defender Tom Mills has signed a two-year contract extension at the club.

The 24-year-old, who has made 275 appearances for the Stones, will now remain at the Gallagher Stadium until the summer of 2018.

Mills made his first team debut in August 2010 and has become a mainstay in the left-back position,

and is the current record appearance holder since the club reformed.

Jay Saunders' side now have a rare weekend off from National League South action, where they are enjoying a fine season, sitting second in the table behind Ebbsfleet having only been promoted last campaign.

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